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Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly

Report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly

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I. Introduction

1. By its resolution 69/321, the General Assembly decided to establish, at its seventieth session, an ad hoc working group on the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly, open to all Member States:

(a) To identify further ways to enhance the role, authority, effectiveness and efficiency of the Assembly, inter alia, by building on progress achieved in past sessions as well as on previous resolutions, including evaluating the status of their implementation;

(b) To submit a report thereon to the Assembly at its seventieth session.

2. In that resolution, the General Assembly also decided that the Ad Hoc Working Group should continue its review of the inventory of Assembly resolutions on revitalization annexed to the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group submitted to the Assembly at its sixty-ninth session (A/69/1007), and, as a result, to continue to update the inventory to be attached to the report to be submitted to the Assembly at its seventieth session. The present report and the recommendations contained herein are submitted pursuant to the provisions of that resolution.

3. During the seventieth session of the General Assembly, the President of the Assembly appointed Ambassador Vladimir Drobnjak, Permanent Representative of Croatia to the United Nations, and Ambassador Wilfried Emvula, Permanent Representative of Namibia to the United Nations, as Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Working Group.

4. Before the formal beginning of the Working Group's deliberations, the Co-Chairs conducted informal bilateral meetings with representatives of various Member States and a variety of political groups. During those meetings, the Co-Chairs benefited extensively from the insights and ideas of Member States on both the substance and the technical and procedural aspects of the revitalization process.

II. Proceedings

5. The Working Group held a total of eight meetings, on 19 January, 16 February, 3 and 22 March, 7 April and 8 September 2016.

6. The programme of work was organized into two practical stages, as follows: general discussion and exchange of views; and thematic meetings. The themes identified by the Co-Chairs for consideration in the four thematic meetings comprised:

(a) The role and authority of the General Assembly;

(b) The working methods of the Assembly;

(c) The selection and appointment of the Secretary-General and other executive heads of the United Nations system;

(d) The strengthening of the institutional memory of the Office of the President of the General Assembly.

7. In addition, the Co-Chairs convened three informal meetings for an exchange of views on the issue of the transparency, efficiency and accountability of the Office of the President of the General Assembly (11 December 2015); certain aspects of the selection and appointment process of the Secretary-General, such as the issues of a single term and multiple candidates (29 February 2016); and the desirability and timing of a co-facilitation process for the General Assembly resolution on the appointment of the Secretary-General and possible elements for inclusion therein (29 August 2016).

A. General discussion

8. The first meeting of the Working Group was convened by its Co-Chairs on 19 January. Following introductory remarks by the Co-Chairs, the participants in the meeting heard interventions from 23 delegations, including on behalf of major groups. The Working Group also had before it a tentative timetable for the thematic discussions; the report of the Secretary-General on mandates addressed to the Secretariat that have not been implemented (A/70/681), issued pursuant to resolution 69/321; as well as a draft updated inventory chart of all revitalization mandates, which was uploaded on the dedicated revitalization link accessible from the website of the General Assembly (www.un.org/en/ga/revitalization/pdf/Updated%20inventory%2069_321.pdf).

9. Noting the earlier starting time of meetings in 2016 to allow more time for work on the resolution to be adopted by the Working Group by July, if possible, the Co-Chairs provided a number of thoughts on each of the various clusters (what were the mandates, what could be looked into, and what possibly could be achieved during the session?) in order to stimulate the general debate, as follows: (a) with regard to the cluster on the role and authority of the General Assembly, the Co-Chairs were open to proposals on how to further raise the visibility of the work of the Assembly; (b) pertaining to the working methods of the Assembly, emphasis should be placed on rationalization and the effectiveness of the work of the Assembly and its Main Committees, with further exploration of streamlining the agenda; (c) concerning the selection process of the Secretary-General and other executive heads, in resolution 69/321 the Assembly had affirmed its readiness to continue discussing all the issues in this field, as a result of which a further exchange of views was expected; and (d) concerning the strengthening of the institutional memory of the Office of the President of the General Assembly, four issues stood out for further discussion: financing the Office; strengthening its institutional memory; ensuring its accountability; and enhancing gender balance among holders of the office of President.

10. In the subsequent debate, speakers widely welcomed the reappointment of the Co-Chairs from the sixty-ninth session by noting the historic achievement of resolution 69/321, which was adopted by consensus at the end of that session and which was frequently cited as a landmark document. Many delegations in particular referred to the selection process of the next Secretary-General as a priority issue for them during the seventieth session of the Assembly and called for full implementation of all the relevant mandates contained in resolution 69/321. Acknowledging the joint letter of the Presidents of the General Assembly and of the Security Council of 15 December 2015 (A/70/623-S/2015/988), by which the process of soliciting candidates had begun, and the subsequent circulation of

submitted candidacies, a number of speakers additionally underlined their desire to look into further aspects of the selection process such as the possibility of seeking multiple candidates from the Security Council; the option of establishing a single, seven-year term; and reinstating the practice of a secret ballot. Other delegations, however, emphasized their expectation of focusing on the implementation of resolution 69/321 rather than on devising additional and new measures, noting also the importance of strict compliance with the prerogatives of the respective organs as laid out in Article 97 of the Charter of the United Nations, with one speaker intimating that resolution 69/321 would remain the historic resolution in this respect for years to come.

11. Several speakers strongly encouraged the presentation of female candidates and/or expressed their wish to see a woman appointed as the next Secretary-General. More generally, several delegations called for early presentation of candidates in order to ensure an orderly conduct of the informal dialogues in the General Assembly as stipulated in resolution 69/321. Various delegations furthermore emphasized that those informal dialogues should serve as a forum for active engagement with candidates in order to ascertain their vision for the Organization, and some conveyed their expectation that these would take place with the participation of civil society. Some argued that all candidates should undergo the procedure of informal dialogues, whereas others cited the emphasis in resolution 69/321 that these would be without prejudice to any candidates not participating in them. Many delegations argued that due regard should be given to equal and fair geographical distribution through rotation. Other aspects that were touched upon related to appointments to senior management positions, with one speaker arguing that the efforts of the Working Group should not stop at the level of the Secretary-General, but should extend to other important decision makers, such as the Deputy Secretary-General, Under-Secretaries-General and Assistant Secretaries-General as well.

12. Separately from the process of selection of the Secretary-General, speakers voiced their different expectations concerning the Working Group's discussion of matters related to the Office of the President of the General Assembly, with some calling for additional resources, both financial and human, to be made available on a permanent basis, bearing in mind what they identified as an increased number of mandates addressed directly to the President of the General Assembly. They also recognized the importance of the transition phase between sessions and reiterated the request for outgoing Presidents to brief their successors. In that context, one delegation raised the possibility of advancing the timing of the elections of the President to an earlier point in the session to allow incumbents to better prepare. As far as resources were concerned, that same delegation stated that it was unrealistic to focus on an increase in budgetary means, and instead advocated for a realistic approach when discussing this theme. That view was seconded by other Member States as well, who strongly argued against any increases, stressing instead the need to identify areas for possible rationalization and for improvements in the definition of the role of the President and in the effective and efficient functioning of the Office of the President. More generally, those Member States underlined the importance of funding in line with real capacity to pay and called for concrete steps to be taken to spend more wisely and to deliver in new and creative ways to ensure that the Organization lived within agreed budgetary levels. At the same time, the existing practice of secondments was welcomed, providing both for geographical diversity and for various expertise and perspectives in supporting the discharge of

the duties of the President of the General Assembly. One delegation underscored that any proposals entailing budgetary implications needed to be submitted to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Fifth Committee.

13. A number of delegations recalled recent events which had required a focus on the transparency and accountability of the Office, and raised the idea of establishing a code of conduct and/or an oath of office. Several delegations welcomed the measures already adopted by the President of the Assembly at its seventieth session, such as the posting of information pertaining to resources in the Trust Fund in support of the Office of the President of the General Assembly and the President's travel on his website, and called for their continuation and institutionalization. One delegation furthermore encouraged the Office of the President to propose additional measures to improve transparency and accountability. Several speakers also noted the unequal gender parity among the Assembly's Presidents, and called for achieving a better record in that regard.

14. Aside from the selection process for the Secretary-General and the strengthening of the Office of the President of the General Assembly, speakers also stressed the importance they attached to improving the Assembly's working methods, highlighting, in particular, the need to further streamline the Assembly's agenda and its programme of work and calling for the biennialization, triennialization, clustering or deletion of items, including through the introduction of a sunset clause, with the clear consent of the sponsoring State or States, better scheduling of meetings to avoid overlaps, better use of electronic services and lightening the meetings calendar during the high-level week in September. One group of States stressed the importance of leadership by the Chairs of the Main Committees in these endeavours. Against the backdrop of the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, references were made to the need to streamline the work of the Second and Third Committees, the Economic and Social Council and the high-level political forum on sustainable development. Others, however, confined themselves to stressing the need for discussions on working methods to be "intergovernmental" and "inclusive". As to improving the scheduling of meetings, several envisaged that the General Committee could play a useful role in that process. One group moreover called for all meetings at United Nations Headquarters to start on time, and, separately, looked forward to the informal meeting to be convened by the President of the General Assembly on the relationship between the Secretariat and the permanent missions, pursuant to resolution 69/321.

15. Last but not least, one group of States reaffirmed their well-known positions concerning the role and authority of the General Assembly as the only fully representative organ, and its rejection of what it perceived as encroachment on the Assembly's work by the Security Council, even in areas of norm-setting, legislation and administrative and budgetary matters. Another speaker similarly objected to the Council's increased consideration of thematic issues and called for a reorientation by the Council towards country-specific situations in accordance with the Council's original mandate. Yet another group called on the Council to further improve its annual report to the General Assembly, arguing, inter alia, that the information posted on the Council's website could in no way substitute for due reporting to the Assembly, which it considered an obligation responding to the need for transparency and accountability vis-à-vis the membership as a whole. Another group of States

was also of the view that the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization could contribute to the revitalization process. Others appreciated the continued briefings by the Secretary-General to the Assembly on his priorities, travel and most recent activities, and encouraged continuation of that practice. Finally, a group of States underscored the importance it attached to the full implementation of multilingualism in the General Assembly's work.

B. Thematic meetings

First thematic meeting: the role and authority of the General Assembly

16. In the course of the second meeting, which was also the first thematic meeting, held on 16 February 2016, 15 delegations intervened, including on behalf of major groups. Following opening remarks by the Co-Chairs, who emphasized that the meeting would provide an opportunity to discuss measures to further enhance the visibility of the work of the General Assembly and the relationship between the Assembly and other principal organs, a briefing was provided by the Under-Secretary-General for Public Information.

17. In her briefing, the Under-Secretary-General recalled the wide range of measures taken by the Department of Public Information in support of the celebration of the seventieth anniversary of the United Nations, as well as the ongoing activities in support of the General Assembly and the President of the General Assembly. She cited as examples web services in all United Nations official languages and the services provided by the United Nations Information Centres. She also highlighted the work in support of the Sustainable Development Goals, before underlining the Department's continuing collaborative relationship with the Committee on Information. In their subsequent statements, several speakers welcomed the briefing while underlining the importance they attached to multilingualism. One group of states invited the Department to look into options for further streamlining of the available websites to make access to information more user-friendly.

18. In the course of the subsequent debate, delegations generally focused on the role and authority of the General Assembly, especially from the perspective of the Assembly's relationship with the other principal organs, in particular the Security Council. In that regard, some groups argued against what they perceived as encroachment by the Council on the work of the Assembly and stressed the importance of the Council's reporting to the Assembly, as well as the need for more analytical reports and special subject-oriented reports, citing specifically resolution 58/126. The Assembly's role in the area of international peace and security was also highlighted. Various other delegations similarly called for respecting the Assembly's role as the only universal and fully representative intergovernmental organ within the Organization, and expressed their wish for further upholding this authority, including in the area of norm-setting.

19. Other speakers underscored the co-equal status of the two bodies as outlined in the Charter and stressed the importance and necessity of avoiding micromanagement between them. In that context it was underlined that there should be no interference in the working methods between the two bodies and that any improvements should be strictly based on consensus. It was furthermore argued that

the role and authority of the General Assembly would be best enhanced through increasing its own transparency. One delegation also supported a closer relationship between the presidents of the principal organs to help identify areas of unnecessary overlap. The view was expressed that it was not productive to alter the institutional balance among the organs. One speaker reiterated the position that the Council should focus on country-specific issues rather than engage in thematic debates and noted that some Member States failed "to practice what they preached" in that regard once elected to a non-permanent seat on the Security Council.

20. Other issues raised during the debate included the importance of the implementation of resolutions. In that regard, the selection process of the next Secretary-General was intermittently raised, with some delegations arguing that it would present an opportunity for the General Assembly to enhance its role and authority during the seventieth session. A number of delegations also touched upon the convening of the Assembly's thematic debates, which, some noted, presented an opportunity to engage with civil society and other stakeholders. One group, however, once more underscored the need for proper scheduling, taking into account the demands on delegations based on the broader intergovernmental calendar. In another proposal, it was suggested moving forward the election of the President of the General Assembly to six months before the opening of the session (from the current three months). For several Member States streamlining the Assembly's agenda, in particular against the background of the 2030 Agenda, remained an important priority, which they argued could result in a stronger role for the Assembly. One speaker also focused on Member States' own role and responsibility in maintaining a strong and effective Assembly.

Second thematic meeting: the working methods of the General Assembly

21. The third meeting of the Working Group, which was also its second thematic meeting, was convened by the Co-Chairs on 3 March 2016. Following introductory remarks by the Co-Chairs, the meeting participants, in accordance with operative paragraph 19 of resolution 69/321, heard briefings from the Chairs of the First, Fourth, Second, Third and Fifth Committees and from the Vice-Chair of the Sixth Committee. During the interactive question-and-answer period that followed, delegations had an opportunity to pose questions. In the last part of the meeting, dedicated to general statements by delegations, 13 speakers, including on behalf of major groups, took the floor. The Co-Chairs, in their opening remarks, emphasized that the thematic meeting provided an opportunity to discuss measures to rationalize the Assembly's agenda, to ensure better coordination of high-level meetings and to generally improve the efficiency and effectiveness of how the Assembly goes about doing its business.

Briefings by the Chairs of the Main Committees

22. The Chair of the First Committee noted three issues that had been particularly challenging to the work of the First Committee during the seventieth session: (a) panel discussions and introductions during thematic discussions, in which connection the Chair recommended keeping process and procedural issues separate from policy discussions, and handling the former in "an objective and neutral manner"; (b) programme budget implications of draft resolutions and decisions, in which connection transparency, clarity and consistency were imperative in determining and communicating decisions on programme budget implications, with

a need for Member States to be given advance warning when a draft resolution or decision would give rise to programme budget implications and for documents containing a statement of programme budget implications and the text of oral statements to be distributed at least a day in advance. Better coordination was furthermore needed between the Secretariat, authors of draft resolutions and Co-sponsors; and (c) time management, where ending the Committee's work on time was a recurrent challenge. In the latter context, time limits were useful, although they were not always embraced by delegates as verbatim meeting records included only what was said in the meeting, thereby presenting a challenge to delegates willing to shorten their oral interventions and releasing their full statement elsewhere. A better system was needed to address this situation. Furthermore, bilateral consultations between delegations should be held outside of the conference room in order for statements by delegates to be fully audible. The Chair noted that support had also been expressed for the biennial, triennial or even quadrennial consideration of certain resolutions and decisions that contained only technical updates. Separately, the Chair recommended a better transition between the outgoing Chair and the Chair-elect to prepare the incoming chair in advance of the session.

23. The Chair of the Fourth Committee noted that the Committee had completed its work in an extremely efficient manner, having required only 25 of the 27 formal meetings envisaged in its adopted programme of work. Best practices and lessons learned were offered in the following three areas: (a) decolonization: the Committee had continued its practice of hearing representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories and petitioners speak on issues pertaining to decolonization and the Chair emphasized that the number of petitioners approved to speak at any session needed to remain at a level that could be accommodated within the programme of work of the Committee. In discussions with the Secretariat, the Bureau had recommended that as of the seventy-first session, a standard request form should be submitted by all potential petitioners to avoid potential challenges from the floor by Member States; (b) the importance of early election of bureau members: the election of the Chair and the Bureau in June had contributed immensely to the success of the session, enabling them to plan and prepare the work of the General Assembly in advance and to address a number of urgent political issues requiring their attention; and (c) collaboration with other Main Committees: the joint meeting of the First and Fourth Committees to address possible challenges to space security and sustainability was the first of its kind and "a resounding success", raising awareness of complementarity in the work of the two Committees.

24. The Chair of the Second Committee indicated that in 2015 the Second Committee had found itself in a unique and delicate situation, following the adoption of several landmark agreements, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development. Those agreements gave a strong impetus to the review and rationalization of the agenda and working methods of the Second Committee. Accordingly, the Committee held several meetings where it was broadly agreed that as it currently stands, the Committee agenda does not adequately cover the key economic, financial and environmental issues that embody the new sustainable development framework, and it was agreed that a road map should be prepared for the continuation of the discussions with an outcome to be adopted in April 2016. The main challenges arising in those discussions could be categorized as: (a) finding methods to increase efficiency and use time in a more

effective and efficient way; (b) rationalizing the agenda to reflect the new realities created in the development landscape; and (c) re-ensuring the relevance and increasing the impact of the work of the Second Committee.

25. The Chair of the Third Committee noted that the work of the Committee had grown, making it hard for developing countries to follow deliberations effectively and inclusively. To ensure the timely conclusion of proceedings, strict adherence to time limits and the time management of meetings in general had become very important. In some situations, speaking times were reduced to one minute so that everyone could speak. The Third Committee also undertook a reorganization of its work programme, including with regard to action on draft resolutions. There was a need for coordination among Committees when establishing the work agenda to avoid overlap of important meetings, particularly on the adoption of draft resolutions. The current session was marked by the biennialization and triennialization of agenda items, which helped to lessen the burden for delegations. The Chair cited the real success of the e-Sponsor platform which was piloted by the Committee and had improved its work culture.

26. The Chair of the Fifth Committee highlighted the uniqueness of the Committee, which was characterized by a particularly heavy workload. The Chair noted a delicate contradiction: while efforts should be considered to reduce the workload, for example through the biennialization and triennialization of agenda items, in practice it was imperative that the integrity of the Committee be maintained and thus all the Fifth Committee's agenda items needed to remain with the Committee. In other words, there was no scope to change the workload of the Fifth Committee. Given the nature of this work, personal sacrifice was needed as well as great trust among the delegates. While question-and-answer sessions could be very long, it would be inadvisable to reduce their timing. Central to the efficiency of the Committee was the timely delivery of documents by the Secretariat. Generally, documents should be shorter and more comprehensive, without compromising on quality, and there should be accountability for the delay of documents. Finally, empowerment and capacity-building of delegates was very important, including through the delegation of authority and building of technical skills.

27. The Vice-Chair of the Sixth Committee cited the "handover" period between the outgoing and incoming Sixth Committee Bureaux in June 2015 as a successful undertaking that allowed for an exchange of views and lessons learned. For the seventieth session, the Bureau had proposed that the debate on the revitalization agenda item be moved to earlier in the session, so as to allow delegations more time to consult on the proposed work programme. This allowed for enhanced transparency and the opportunity for delegations to have a greater say in the final programme. To avoid scheduling conflicts, the Bureau had reached out to the Presidencies of the relevant courts and tribunals to put into place an arrangement for a common schedule for 2016. On that basis, the Sixth Committee had adopted a proposed work programme for the seventy-first session which specifically anticipated the holding of related meetings in the General Assembly plenary. The Vice-Chair thanked the Secretariat for the implementation of the "Unite Connections" portal for the Sixth Committee, which had proved to be an effective means for delegations to communicate information and drafts among themselves, and for the Secretariat to communicate with delegates.

Statements/debate

28. In general statements, Member States expressed appreciation for the briefings they had received and felt encouraged by a number of steps already agreed at previous sessions. At the same time, there was wide recognition that additional measures were both necessary and feasible in order to further enhance the role and authority of the General Assembly and to strengthen the impact of its work. It was, inter alia, argued that improvement of working methods was not a technical, but a political matter, with wider ramifications on the status of the Organization's work. Various speakers therefore recalled the importance for the Main Committees to coordinate better among themselves; for the timely election of their bureaux; and for a smooth handover from one session to the next. One group proposed that the six Main Committees should hold the election of their Chairs as early as April each year, well in advance of the currently stipulated deadline of June. Speakers also welcomed the early election of the non-permanent members of the Security Council and of members of the Economic and Social Council six months before the assumption of their terms of office which, for the first time, would take place during the seventieth session. One delegation furthermore suggested electing the Presidents of the General Assembly similarly in advance to also give them more time to build their team and prepare for the requirements of the office.

29. Several speakers specifically favoured looking into options for better organizing the Assembly's agenda, including through biennialization, triennialization and clustering of its items. In that regard, one speaker proposed that the Working Group might wish to consider leading by example by biennializing its work, which would also allow it to better focus on the implementation of a wide range of tangible outcomes already realized. A number of other delegations similarly agreed that the Assembly's agenda was "too heavy" and could benefit from streamlining, with one group identifying an important role for the President of the General Assembly as well as the need for leadership by the Chairs of the Main Committees and their bureaux in that regard. Another delegation supported looking into the possibility of deleting items under which no resolution had been adopted for several years. At the same time, the imperative of having a process driven by Member States that ensured the sovereign right to propose items for inclusion in the Assembly's agenda was underlined. As a particular aspect of this objective, a number of speakers referred to the ongoing need to align the Assembly's agenda, especially items allocated to the Second and Third Committees, as well as those of the Economic and Social Council and the high-level political forum on sustainable development, with the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, a which was reflected, inter alia, in resolutions 68/1, 68/307 and 69/321. The discussions that had already commenced in the Second Committee were recognized and the President's intention to appoint a group of five negotiators for the purpose of providing a mechanism for an open and transparent process that could bring together the bodies concerned was noted.

30. As regards scheduling, the view was expressed that there were too many meetings during the high-level segment at the opening of every session, and that it was important to bear in mind the busy schedule of high-level officials when attending the general debate in September. A role for the General Committee and the Secretary-General could be envisioned in that regard. Several Member States also stressed that "utmost care be given not to allow scheduling of events that would overburden, overshadow or dilute the profile of the general debate during its entire

period". More specifically on the organization of the general debate, one delegation reiterated its wish that the list of speakers be prepared taking into account the different domestic protocol situations, in other words to allow for the accommodation of Heads of Government among Heads of State where the respective political hierarchy did not provide for a more political function for the Head of State. One speaker suggested that the current 15-minute time limit was reflective of an era when the Assembly consisted of 51 Member States, and that situations where the President of a Member State was obliged to address an empty General Assembly Hall needed to be avoided. To that end, the same delegation wondered whether the general debate could not be extended over two weeks. A group of States was ready to explore further the possibility of concentrating the holding of high-level meetings during the beginning of the year and envisaged a stronger role for the General Committee in the context of scheduling meetings. Several Member States also welcomed the periodic briefings by the Secretary-General on his recent activities, including travel, while encouraging him to further increase these encounters.

31. Other issues raised included the question of documentation and the use of electronic tools to facilitate the Assembly's work. Concerning the work of the Fifth Committee, for example, a serious concern over the delay in the submission of reports from the Secretariat and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in all official languages was expressed. A group of States underscored that the use of electronic services should not be interpreted as an alternative to the issuance in hard copy of Secretariat documents and all other relevant documentation which needed to be distributed in paper format. Furthermore, official communications needed to be transmitted by both mail and telefax. One speaker requested that the President of the General Assembly's communications be more effectively distributed and duly posted online. Another group of States, however, was strongly supportive of the use of electronic services, including webcasts and the PaperSmart portal, with a view to saving "a considerable amount of resources, energy and paper".

32. On another subject, various delegations raised the way in which programme budget implications were handled, a matter which some wished to be taken up as a topic in the Ad Hoc Working Group. A group of States argued for "a more flexible approach by the Secretariat" in advising facilitators, and felt that it would be useful to "develop common and harmonized approaches". Another group echoed this sentiment and similarly was of the view that there was scope for improvement as to how the Secretariat interacted with the Main Committees by providing timely information to support the negotiation process for resolutions, for example by sharing information about budget implications. It was also intermittently suggested that all official meetings should start punctually and that time limits for statements could be considered more systematically, including the option of reflecting longer, written statements in the official records (even though it was also noted that this might conflict with Member States' sovereign right of reply).

33. Before the debate concluded, the Director for General Assembly and Economic and Social Council Affairs responded to various points raised during the debate, clarifying that the existing mandate for the duration of the general debate was nine working days, but that based on experience no Member State wished to speak during the second week. Regarding the proposal for a more flexible composition of the list of speakers, the Secretariat was open to further consider that

approach, which would also ensure better regional distribution. Yet another alternative option to the existing modus operandi would be to draw lots, which was already being done in advance of high-level meetings and which had the advantage of providing a fair, transparent and predictable mechanism that could be organized well in advance to allow permanent missions to better plan the schedules of their dignitaries' visits to United Nations Headquarters.

Third thematic meeting: selection and appointment of the Secretary-General and other executive heads of the United Nations system

34. The Co-Chairs convened the fourth meeting of the Working Group, which was also the third thematic meeting, on 22 March 2016, and heard statements from 40 delegations, including on behalf of major groups. Pursuant to paragraph 40 of resolution 69/321, the Acting Director of the Strategic Planning and Staffing Division in the Office of Human Resources Management provided a briefing on the gender balance and regional origin of executive heads and the Senior Management Group of the United Nations, which was followed by questions and answers.

35. In their opening remarks, the Co-Chairs recalled the informal brainstorming session held on 29 February for a substantive exchange of views related to the topic, with a special emphasis on the question of the term of office of the Secretary-General and the number of candidates to be recommended by the Security Council to the General Assembly for its consideration. The thematic debate, in contrast, would allow for an opportunity to discuss all the aspects related to the selection and appointment process, including of other executive heads of the United Nations system, even as the issues of a single term and multiple candidates remained on the table for consideration by the Working Group. At the same time, they underlined that the modus operandi would continue to be based on consensual decision-making and any new measures that might be agreed upon would have no impact on the immediate next selection process which, they noted, had already begun. Stressing that a lot had indeed already been accomplished, as was reflected in resolution 69/321, the priority was for these measures now to be translated into action. As to the selection of other executive heads, the Co-Chairs cited Assembly resolution 46/232 on the revitalization of the Secretariat.

36. Briefing the Working Group on the gender balance and regional origin of executive heads and the Senior Management Group of the United Nations, the Acting Director of the Strategic Planning and Staffing Division noted that the Secretariat prepared an annual report on the composition of the Secretariat, containing a demographic analysis of the composition of its staff, the latest version of which was contained in document A/70/605. As to the current 228 senior appointments in the United Nations system at the Under-Secretary-General and Assistant Secretary-General levels, 56 (or 25 per cent) were women and the regional representation was as follows: 59 from the African Group; 29 from the Asia-Pacific Group; 12 from the Eastern European Group; 17 from the Latin American and Caribbean Group; and 111 from the Western European and Others Group. Regarding the Senior Management Group, made up of 39 members, 13 (or 33 per cent) were women and their regional origin was as follows: nine from the African Group; 10 from the Asia-Pacific Group; one from the Eastern European Group; four from the Latin American and Caribbean Group; and 15 from the Western European and Others Group.

37. Regarding executive heads, the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination had 29 members, of which 8 (or 28 per cent) were women. The regional grouping of these 29 members was 5 from the African Group; 8 from the Asia-Pacific Group; 2 from the Eastern European Group; 2 from the Latin American and Caribbean Group; and 12 from the Western European and Others Group. Regarding the gender balance and regional groups at the senior management level in the Secretariat only, as at 30 June 2015, 166 Under-Secretaries-General and Assistant Secretaries-General were serving in the Secretariat; 23 per cent of Under-Secretaries-General and 22 per cent of Assistant Secretaries-General were female. The regional grouping of these was as follows: 48 were from the African Group; 18 were from the Asia-Pacific Group; 9 were from the Eastern European Group; 14 were from the Latin American and Caribbean Group; and 77 were from the Western European and Others Group.

38. In the subsequent question-and-answer session, a delegation queried as to the availability of the gender ratio of staff in peacekeeping operations and among judges at the International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Court. The Acting Director responded by drawing the attention of the membership to the relevant reports before the Fifth Committee, such as on the composition of the Secretariat, and stressed that gender was a priority and that the Office of Human Resources Management, in cooperation with the Department of Field Support, was assessing the gender ratio obtaining in peacekeeping operations on a continuous basis.

39. In the course of the ensuing debate, many speakers noted the historic step represented by the adoption by consensus of resolution 69/321, citing the new measures and innovative steps contained therein. Several speakers welcomed and expressed gratitude to the President of the General Assembly for the manner in which he had implemented and operationalized the mandates addressed to him, including in his latest letter, dated 25 February 2016, by which he had communicated the modalities for the forthcoming round of hearings starting on 12 April. A number of speakers also specifically welcomed and praised the creation by the President of a weblink dedicated to the selection process, including a list of all the submitted candidates together with relevant background documents. Numerous delegations looked forward to the informal dialogues with candidates, with some proposing specific measures to be contemplated in organizing the meetings, including ensuring that they would be meaningfully interactive and open to a larger audience through webcast and civil society participation. The invitation by the President for candidates to submit vision statements in advance of these meetings was welcomed. Many also argued that any candidates still to come forward should also undergo the same procedure as this would strongly increase their legitimacy. One delegation, however, questioned the value of holding these meetings, preferring bilateral meetings between candidates and regional groups instead.

40. Speaking on behalf of a regional group, one speaker stressed that "honouring the regional rotation, as a fundamental principle to be upheld now and in the future, is of paramount importance", a view echoed by others as well who supported the selection of an Eastern European to the post. It was also noted, however, that regional rotation was not enshrined in the selection of the Secretary-General, in contrast with the more formal pattern of rotation stipulated in the Assembly's rules of procedure for the election of the Chairs of the Main Committees. Yet other

speakers more generally referred to the importance they attached to the principle of geographical rotation.

41. Throughout, various speakers reiterated their strong support for female candidates to be submitted and considered in the context of the next selection and appointment process. Speaking on behalf of a group of friends in favour of a woman candidate for Secretary-General of the United Nations, one speaker was pleased to see that three female candidates had already been put forward, but encouraged other Member States to put forward "other female candidates in order to make the selection process more open and inclusive". Another group recalled its strong encouragement to Member States to present female candidates. It was also highlighted that to date all Secretaries-General had been male. At the same time, and while concurring with the wish to see preference being given to equally qualified female candidates, it was also stressed that every candidate, woman or man, should have a thorough understanding of, and commitment to, gender equality. Others more broadly highlighted the need to identify the best possible candidate as the overriding objective of the selection and appointment process. Characteristic criteria cited included commitment to transparency, to accountability and to continuing United Nations management reforms, integrity, impartiality, leadership, sophisticated diplomatic skills, multilingual qualifications, excellent performance and management skills, and charisma, as well as media skills.

42. On the question of multiple candidates, a group of States called on the Security Council to recommend more than one candidate for consideration by the General Assembly, a view shared by a number of other speakers as well. The argument was put forward that resolution 11 (I) of 1946, the Assembly's first expression on the subject, was outdated and needed to be repealed. One delegation, on the other hand, suggested that the current candidates had entered the race with the existing practice in mind, and that any modification on this point now would amount to "changing of the rules very late in the game".

43. Specifically regarding a single term of office, it was argued that this would help to ensure, and enhance, the Secretary-General's independence, which would make it easier for the incumbent "to perform her or his duties without undue influence". This, it was suggested, would also allow for more regional rotation of the post. One group, while noting the possibility of changing the term, merely signalled its willingness to contemplate such an innovative measure, and looked forward to "a constructive discussion on this matter". Others strongly supported maintaining the current practice of a five-year, renewable term. One delegation also stressed that it was imperative to avoid determining the term on an ad hoc basis to avoid the appearance of a "candidate-specific term limit", and therefore called for any such discussion, and decision, if taken, to take place well in advance before the Council had finalized its part of the selection process. Some stressed that the term could be stipulated by the Assembly in its resolution on the appointment of the Secretary-General, and hence argued that sufficient time was required for the necessary consultations on the draft resolution after the Council had submitted its recommendation. A group of States more generally argued that the presentation of a resolution in the General Assembly needed to allow for sufficient time for "extensive consultations" among Member States.

44. As to the procedural modalities to be applied by the Assembly when considering the Council's recommendation, once it had been made, one group of

States called for strict compliance with rule 141 of the Assembly's rules of procedure, which, inter alia, envisages the conduct of a secret ballot, including as part of the argument that this would be the most effective measure to guarantee the Secretary-General's accountability vis-à-vis all the Member States. It was also suggested, however, that a secret ballot, if conducted, would amount to "an unwarranted vote of confidence".

45. Some speakers, noting the achievements contained in resolution 69/321, argued against introducing new measures now, also given that the selection process had already begun. It was cautioned that all new ideas required painstaking study. These Member States were also in favour of respecting existing traditions and past practices when it came to the procedure in the General Assembly, as it had been observed during the previous appointments over the course of the past several decades, arguing that it was preferable not to vote in the Assembly. It was stressed that this would also provide the next Secretary-General with a strong mandate, which, it was argued, was clearly needed in view of the panoply of challenges faced by the United Nations at the beginning of the twenty-first century. Furthermore, it would help to ensure not only the respect and dignity of the candidates who had already come forward, but also of the Member States who had submitted the candidacies.

46. Some delegations also considered it necessary to further discuss the applicable rules and regulations concerning the appointment of other senior officials, including "of Deputy Secretaries-General, Under-Secretaries-General and Assistant Secretaries-General". The briefing provided was welcomed. One group of States stressed that candidates for the post of Secretary-General, either before or after their appointment, must not be put under pressure to make appointments of their senior staff. Resolution 46/232, which stated that "as a general rule, no national of a Member State should succeed a national of that State in a senior post and there should be no monopoly on senior posts by nationals of any State or group of States", was quoted. One delegation argued that Under-Secretaries-General should also be appointed by the General Assembly, for example on the basis of a list of three recommended candidates provided by the Secretary-General. Another speaker strongly believed that the appointment of other executive heads and of high-ranking officials at the United Nations, including the Deputy Secretary-General, should be subjected to scrutiny by the General Assembly and Member States.

47. In closing, the Co-Chairs summed up the meeting as having provided an opportunity for a rich debate, noting, inter alia, the appeals made in relation to the forthcoming process to select the Secretary-General and enumerating the desired criteria and qualifications cited by speakers in the course of the debate, many of which, they noted, would also be applicable in the selection of other executive heads. The Working Group's objective during the seventieth session would be to present a resolution that would be able to garner consensus while at the same time further paving the way forward.

Fourth thematic meeting: strengthening the institutional memory of the Office of the President of the General Assembly

48. The Co-Chairs convened the fifth meeting of the Working Group, which was also the fourth thematic meeting, on 7 April 2016. It included briefings by the President of the General Assembly and his Chef de Cabinet and by the Under-

Secretary-General for General Assembly and Conference Management. At the Co-Chairs' invitation, the Chef de Cabinet in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General introduced the report of the Secretary-General's Task Force on the functioning of the Office of the President of the General Assembly (A/70/783, annex) and briefed the Working Group on the Task Force's findings. The briefings were followed by an interactive question-and-answer session and, subsequently, by remarks from 28 delegations, including on behalf of major groups.

49. In their opening remarks, the Co-Chairs recalled their letter, dated 31 March, by which they had invited comments on the proposal raised at the 11 December 2015 informal meeting regarding the possibility of establishing an oath of office for future Presidents and on the idea of introducing a code of conduct for the President of the General Assembly and his or her staff.

50. Briefing the Working Group on the report of the Secretary-General's Task Force on the functioning of the Office of the President of the General Assembly, the Chef de Cabinet of the Executive Office of the Secretary-General recalled the Secretary-General's shock and dismay at the allegations against the President of the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly, as well as his deep concern that the allegations had struck at the prestige and reputation of the United Nations. The establishment of the Task Force was in response to those allegations, and had the objective to assess, as quickly as possible, whether the arrangements in place were the best-suited, particularly from the viewpoint of transparency and accountability. The Chef de Cabinet specifically acknowledged the efforts undertaken by the President of the seventieth session to enhance the accountability of the Office, which included a variety of visible steps to enhance transparency in the Office for Member States and the public at large. These initiatives had been reflected in the Task Force's recommendations. The Secretary-General hoped that future Presidents would carry these practices forward and build upon them. The Task Force report identified the fact that the majority of the funding for the Office was voluntary, which took place outside of the United Nations regulatory framework, as the most significant weakness. Furthermore, the totality of the funding and staffing available to the President was not known to the Assembly or to the public, thereby constituting a significant risk to the Organization. As such, the Task Force was of the view that the General Assembly should explore a comprehensive set of measures to deal with this deficiency while noting that a more complete picture of the financing and staffing of the Office was needed in order to assess additional needs for regular budget financing of operating costs for the Office beyond the current level.

51. With respect to transparency, the Task Force found that there were minimal formal requirements for the President to report to the Assembly on a number of issues relevant to the functioning of the Office and therefore recommended that Presidents provide information to the Assembly on their activities, including their travel, as well as on all human and financial resources from all sources, including bilaterally arranged supplementary cash and in-kind resources received outside of the United Nations regular budget and the United Nations Trust Fund. All of this information could be provided to the Assembly through a formal "end-of-presidency report", in the belief that this information would provide the Assembly with a better basis on which to gauge the full magnitude of the resources necessary for the Office to function. This, in turn, would allow the Assembly to consider the optimal balance between United Nations-provided resources and supplementary funding, and

whether additional resources were required. The Task Force recommended vetting of all non-Member State funding sources and requiring cash contributions from those sources to be channelled through the Trust Fund, which was subject to the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations. On the issue of conduct, the Task Force recommended that the Assembly consider developing core principles of conduct for the President and for personnel of the Office, along with an induction briefing by the Ethics Office; and that the Assembly should consider requesting Presidents to provide financial disclosures at the beginning and end of their presidencies.

52. In view of the one-year term of office, the transfer of institutional memory was considered critical to the smooth and effective functioning of the Office. The Task Force made a number of recommendations that would strengthen the Office in this area, including through continuity in personnel. As such, the Task Force recommended that the current P-5 post in the Office that was funded from the United Nations regular budget be filled on a longer-term basis and that the Secretary-General propose the establishment of an additional P-5 post also to be filled on a longer term basis, which would facilitate the smooth onboarding of new Presidents and enhance continuity between sessions. In addition to suggesting a more formalized format for handover reports between Presidents, it was also recommended that the records of the Office be maintained in the Office and/or in the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, and that those records be deemed part of the archives of the United Nations. To maximize the use of the transition period for incoming Presidents, the Task Force recommended that the Secretary-General propose to the Assembly that resources be allocated to facilitate handover and overlap costs for a limited duration. Finally, the Task Force suggested that Member States may wish to consider whether it would be desirable to have a technical body to provide oversight of the handling of financial and human resource matters and the transfer of institutional knowledge of the Office.

53. The President of the General Assembly commended the Secretary-General for his very timely Task Force report, stressing that the Office of the President belonged to the entire membership and always needed to act, and be seen to act, ethically, fairly and in a neutral fashion. He encouraged the Ad Hoc Working Group to consider favourably the recommendations made by the Task Force, noting that the vast majority could be acted upon by the Secretariat and followed up through a supportive mandate from the Assembly. The President singled out the following elements as the most critical. Firstly, on financing, it was important to ensure that "the maximum amount of voluntary contributions flow through the dedicated United Nations Trust Fund". In this regard, eliminating trust fund transaction costs was essential. Further, funding from the operating budget for the Office of the President should be made available to the President-elect. The President also needed to be alerted from the outset to an accounting complication which may arise at the end of the biennium budget and can result in a sudden loss of core funding. The timing of the beginning of the President's term could also be looked at because the handover in September could place significant pressures on the Office of the President and the Secretariat alike. Secondly, it was important to ensure maximum transparency around all financial and in-kind contributions and expenditures, which could be done by publishing all relevant financial information, vetting all possible private donations, requiring financial disclosures by the President; standardizing secondment arrangements; and formalizing an annual report of the President on

activities, financing and other issues. Thirdly, the highest standard of ethics in the Office needed to be established, including through a code of conduct and providing ethics training for all staff.

54. The President of the General Assembly also raised the question of whether the President's Office had the financial and human resources as well as operational systems required to meet the ever-increasing demands, and suggested that there was a need for a more detailed analysis of the Office's precise workload and the total resources available to it. Still, some changes could already be made, most of these immediately and without any additional financial costs. For example, steps could be taken to make the transition between sessions more seamless, including through greater standardization. The funding of the Office furthermore was such that each President was required "to undertake considerable fundraising". In that regard, the voluntary contributions during the seventieth session were "at the very least" three times greater than that provided for in the operational budget. The approach to staffing should also be reviewed: the Office of the President at the seventieth session consisted of 32 staff, over 80 per cent of whom came from non-core resources and were replaced each year. While secondments brought great benefits, including diversity, credibility and expertise, such a turnover undermined continuity and overall effectiveness. It also potentially disadvantaged President-elects from developing countries. In addressing these issues, a number of steps could therefore be taken as follows: some of the five positions provided for in the United Nations regular budget should be changed into multi-annual posts, instead of being replaced year to year. They should be reprofiled, increasing the grade of the Chef de Cabinet position, while lowering the grades of some of the other positions. A dedicated and multi-annual P-5 position could be created to deal with financial, budgetary and institutional memory issues. Finally, consideration should be given to increasing the overall number of core staff of the Office by five or more, within existing resources, which could include multi-annual secondments from across the United Nations system.

55. Elaborating on the briefing by the President of the General Assembly, the Chef de Cabinet of the Office of the President reported that the President had engaged frequently with the other organs of the United Nations and enjoyed a very close cooperation with the Secretary-General, which was critical in promoting coherence across the Organization. This included regular meetings with the General Committee, the Chairs of the Main Committee and with regional groups. The President regularly posted relevant information on his website. He had also published a list of the different processes being undertaken by facilitators. The great majority of the President's work, in addition to chairing meetings, nowadays involved overseeing various negotiating processes, organizing meetings, preparing high-level thematic debates, and facilitating greater stakeholder engagement in General Assembly affairs. During the seventieth session of the Assembly, there had been 16 negotiation processes, all of which needed to be followed by the Office of the President. In addition, seven high-level events had been held, each with its own unique preparatory process. Three high-level thematic debates had also been organized by the President. The President was also expected to convene approximately 20 informal meetings and briefings responding to the issues of the day. The process to select the Secretary-General would continue to be another major undertaking for the Office. While the President relied heavily on the immense contributions of the respective facilitators, as well as support from the Department

for General Assembly and Conference Management and other parts of the United Nations system, it was felt that this trend had been developing over time even as no additional resources had been secured for the Office.

56. As to the transition period between sessions, the Office of the President of the seventieth session had received considerable support from both the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management and the President of the sixty-ninth session, yet had been surprised at just how much it seemed like the Office was starting from scratch: there was no standardized system for engaging secondees; no standardized terms of reference for staff; no ethics training for staff despite the request of the President of the seventieth session; and no clarity on the Office's record-keeping system. Each of these gaps could be addressed through administrative changes. Touching on points raised in the Task Force report, the Chef de Cabinet referred to unspent balances in the regular budget of the Office, which in part could be explained by a complication that arose at the end of each biennium budget when a large amount of the annual allocation was expected to be spent within the first three months of the President's term. Failure to spend that amount had resulted in it being removed from the budget of the Office and reported in the accounts as unspent. On staffing, the main aim should be to ensure that future Presidents are supported by a core group of staff at the P-2 to P-4 levels within the office, staff who are well versed in matters related to the General Assembly and the United Nations system.

57. The Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly and Conference Management briefed on the support provided by the Secretariat to the Office of the President, which covered the staffing, sources of funding and the regular Secretariat support available to the Office. As to staffing, the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management covered the expenses for two D-2, one D-1, one P-5 and one General Service staff member in the Office and provided direct support by means of three Professional posts from within the Department. In addition, and also from within its own resources, the Department made available two General Service staff members, located in the Office, as well as translators and text processors as needed. The Department of Management provided a car and driver for official purposes, as well as office space, including transitional office space during the three-month transition period. The Department of Safety and Security provided a detail of two Security Officers, including during travel. A spokesperson was provided by the Department of Public Information, and legal guidance was provided by the Office of Legal Affairs on an as-needed basis. Turning to funding, the regular budget allocation amounted to $322,000 per session. In the light of the static nature of the funding, a Trust Fund was created in 2010, the importance of which has been stressed by Member States in past General Assembly resolutions. The Office also received a wide range of secretariat, technical, procedural and substantive support from the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, which included the preparation of parliamentary documentation; preparing the President's procedural speaking notes; preparation of the speakers list for meetings; receiving and processing draft resolutions; receiving candidacies for elections; administering the voting and balloting in the General Assembly; booking of rooms; meetings management services; interpretation and translation; issuance of documentation; processing outgoing bulk correspondence; preparation of an analytical synopsis of the general debate; collection of all mandates addressed to the President arising from decisions taken by the General Assembly; drafting of summaries of meetings

and of informal consultations of the Assembly; maintenance of an internal calendar of meetings; and drafting of briefing notes on specific questions related to the items on the agenda and generally on the work of the Assembly, as required. With a view to further improving this overall support, and to standardizing it to help incoming Presidents to better conceptualize the form of assistance they may expect to receive from across the Secretariat, the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management intended to establish the practice of organizing induction programmes for incoming Presidents, which henceforth would be convened sometime between their election and their assumption of office.

58. In the subsequent question-and-answer session, one speaker stressed that "a great deal" still needed to be done to strengthen the Office of the President of the General Assembly, arguing that support should be enhanced not only through the creation of a new P-5 level post but through additional posts at lower levels as well. The proposal for a technical oversight body, meanwhile, ran the danger of overlap and posed the risk of creating new and unexpected problems. As to voluntary contributions, these could cause problems if not strictly regulated. The speaker furthermore emphasized the importance of archives which represented "the memory, and hence identity, of any office". Another delegation queried whether information concerning the resources and contributions received by the Presidents of previous sessions could also be made available and was advised by the Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly and Conference Management that that information was available and could be posted on the President's website.

59. Of the 28 delegations intervening in the subsequent debate, a large number commended the President of the seventieth session for the transparency measures adopted by him during his presidency, in particular the creation of a transparency link on his webpage, and looked forward to institutionalizing these steps for future sessions. Delegations also welcomed the briefings and presentations received, with some delegations calling for an in-depth discussion of all the recommendations presented by the Secretary-General's Task Force. A large number of delegations called for an increase in the regular budget allocation to the Office (noting that the Secretary-General had not yet fully implemented resolution 66/294, which had led to a repeated subsequent request) as well as the provision of a number of permanent posts paid for by the Organization to be located within the Office of the President, citing the Assembly's increasing activity. This staff furthermore should reflect diversity, a gender and geographical balance and the different regions and groups of Member States in terms of number and level of responsibility. It was argued that a significant number of financial contributions were provided directly by donors without official records and that the total magnitude of these resources was unknown to the General Assembly and the Secretariat. A call was made for the Secretary-General to provide a new financing proposal in the context of the 2018-2019 programme budget as predictable financing was essential to the smooth and impartial functioning of the Office. Several other delegations, on the other hand, stressed the importance they attached to cost-neutral, or cost-saving, measures, taking into consideration ongoing budgetary constraints, and for any proposals with budgetary implications to be considered in accordance with the applicable rules of procedure, especially rule 153.

60. Speaking more broadly to the question of institutional memory, various speakers stressed the importance they attached to Presidents briefing their successors, and encouraged the sharing of such briefings with the Ad Hoc Working

Group. One speaker argued that a potential compendium should be analytical, identifying best practices and lessons learned with substantive actions that might be taken to improve the outcomes of the Assembly. A group of States cited *The PGA Handbook: a Practical Guide to the United Nations General Assembly*, prepared under the presidency of the sixth-fifth session, as a useful tool that contained basic information about the General Assembly and its procedures and practices, and expressed its readiness to explore options that would allow the Assembly to make the best use of its former Presidents. The same group further encouraged the President to continue the practice of periodically briefing Member States on the activities of the President, including official travel, which was not only a valuable source of information but also an important act of transparency vis-à-vis the Member States.

61. Several speakers also specifically welcomed the proposal for the establishment of a code of conduct and an oath of office. Speaking on behalf of a cross-regional group committed to the promotion of ethics in the United Nations system, and specifically to the transparency of the Office of the President of the General Assembly, one delegation noted that such a code should outline the minimum requirements in terms of ethics of the person in office in order to secure ethics and transparency of the activities of Presidents of the Assembly, as well as to prevent conflicts of interest and corruption.

62. In other comments, several delegations touched upon the question of the archives of the Office, which one group of States believed should be better maintained and made accessible to future Presidents in accordance with the archival procedures of the United Nations. One delegation offered to make available its Foreign Ministry's records of the President of the sixth session of the General Assembly. Another, noting that the allegations against a recent President had severely damaged the prestige and reputation of the United Nations, stressed that financial disclosure was the most important element in making the Office more transparent. Yet another speaker proposed convening hearings also for candidates for the post of President, similar to the recently established mechanism for informal dialogues with candidates to be Secretary-General. To maintain institutional memory, one speaker proposed the establishment of a special team of permanent advisers in the Office of the President which would guarantee a smooth conduct of operations.

63. In closing, the Co-Chairs expressed gratitude for the briefings provided to the Ad Hoc Working Group and noted that the Task Force findings would provide a relevant basis for the negotiations on the draft resolution during the seventieth session. They also noted that the proposals previously made for the adoption of a code of conduct and an oath of office had been underlined in the course of the debate. The Co-Chairs would inform the membership of the next steps in the process in due course.

III. Conclusion

64. In accordance with its mandate, the Working Group endeavoured to identify key issues of concern and possible consensus, to examine the current status of implementation of those issues, and either to take action or to indicate possible further action to be taken.

65. At its final meeting, held on 8 September 2016, the Working Group considered and adopted the present report, including the draft resolution contained in section IV below (see para. 67).

IV. Recommendation

66. On the basis of a draft resolution circulated by the Co-Chairs, the Working Group formulated the resolution set out below.

67. At its final meeting, on 8 September 2016, the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly concluded its work for the seventieth session. The Working Group recommended that the Assembly adopt the following draft resolution:

Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 69/321 of 11 September 2015 and all other previous resolutions relating to the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly,[1]

Acknowledging that resolution 69/321 constitutes an important landmark for the strengthening of the role, authority, effectiveness and efficiency of the General Assembly as established by the Charter of the United Nations, in particular regarding the selection and appointment of the Secretary-General and other executive heads of the United Nations system,

Mindful of the milestone achievements in the course of 2015, in particular the adoption by the General Assembly of the transformative 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[2] and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,[3] as well as the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,

Underlining the need to further enhance the role, authority, effectiveness and efficiency of the General Assembly,

Reiterating that the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly is a critical component of the overall reform of the United Nations,

Recognizing the role of the General Assembly in addressing issues of peace and security, in accordance with the Charter, and acknowledging its role and authority, established in Article 10 of the Charter, to make recommendations to the Members of the United Nations or to the Security Council or to both, on questions or matters within the scope of the Charter, except as provided in Article 12 thereof,

Reaffirming the central position of the General Assembly as the chief deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the United Nations, as well

[1] Resolutions 46/77, 47/233, 48/264, 51/241, 52/163, 55/14, 55/285, 56/509, 57/300, 57/301, 58/126, 58/316, 59/313, 60/286, 61/292, 62/276, 63/309, 64/301, 65/315, 66/294, 67/297 and 68/307.

[2] Resolution 70/1.

[3] Resolution 69/313, annex.

as the role of the Assembly in the process of standard-setting and the codification of international law,

Mindful that we have yet to achieve full gender and geographical balance within the United Nations, while welcoming the ongoing intergovernmental efforts in this regard, and convinced of the need to guarantee equal opportunities for women and men from all regional groups in their access to senior decision-making positions, including to the post of Secretary-General, bearing in mind the need to secure the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity,

Welcoming the historic number of women candidates for Secretary-General presented by the Member States in accordance with resolution 69/321,

Reaffirming the role and authority of the General Assembly in global matters of concern to the international community, including in global governance, as set out in the Charter,

Affirming that the work of the President of the General Assembly and of the Office of the President shall be guided by the principles of universality, objectivity, non-selectivity, constructive international dialogue and cooperation,

Considering that a code of ethics for the President of the General Assembly is an important part of the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly,

Considering also that such a code of ethics will strengthen the capacity of the President of the General Assembly to exercise his or her duties and responsibilities while enhancing his or her moral authority, integrity and credibility, and will require supportive action by other stakeholders and in particular by Member States,

Welcoming the efforts of the President of the General Assembly to reinvigorate the revitalization of the work of the Assembly during its seventieth session,

Taking note of the observations and proposals on improving the working methods of the Main Committees of the General Assembly made by the Chairs of the Main Committees at the thematic meeting on working methods held on 3 March 2016 by the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly and the updated inventory of General Assembly resolutions on revitalization annexed thereto;[4]

2. *Takes note with appreciation* of a multilingual web page devoted to the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly, accessible directly from the United Nations website, which exists in all six official languages, and invites the Secretariat to continue updating regularly and equally that web page and its substantive content in a cost-effective manner;

3. *Decides* to establish, at its seventy-first session, an ad hoc working group on the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly, open to all Member States:

(*a*) To identify further ways to enhance the role, authority, effectiveness and efficiency of the Assembly, inter alia, by building on the progress achieved in past

[4] A/70/1003.

sessions as well as on previous resolutions, including evaluating the status of their implementation;

(*b*) To submit a report thereon to the Assembly at its seventy-first session;

4. *Also decides* that the Ad Hoc Working Group shall continue its review of the inventory of General Assembly resolutions on revitalization annexed to the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group submitted at the seventieth session and, as a result, continue to update the inventory to be attached to the report to be submitted at the seventy-first session of the Assembly;

5. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General,[5] and requests the Secretary-General to submit an update on the provisions of the General Assembly resolutions on revitalization addressed to the Secretariat for implementation that have not been implemented, with an indication of the constraints and reasons behind any lack of implementation, for further consideration by the Ad Hoc Working Group at the seventy-first session;

Role and authority of the General Assembly

6. *Reaffirms* the role and authority of the General Assembly, including on questions relating to international peace and security, in accordance with Articles 10 to 14 and 35 of the Charter of the United Nations, where appropriate, using the procedures set forth in rules 7 to 10 of the rules of procedure of the Assembly, which enable swift and urgent action by the Assembly, bearing in mind that the Security Council has the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, in accordance with Article 24 of the Charter;

7. *Recognizes* that implementation of General Assembly resolutions, including those related to the revitalization of its work, enhances the role, authority, effectiveness and efficiency of the Assembly, and underlines the important role and responsibility of Member States in their full implementation;

8. *Reaffirms* that the relationship between the principal organs of the United Nations is mutually reinforcing and complementary, in accordance with and with full respect for their respective functions, authority, powers and competencies as enshrined in the Charter, as demonstrated through the joint activity of the Presidents of the Security Council and the General Assembly in the process of the selection and appointment of the Secretary-General during the seventieth session, and in this regard stresses the importance of further ensuring increased cooperation, coordination and the exchange of information among the Presidents of the principal organs and also with the Secretariat, in particular the Secretary-General;

9. *Welcomes* with appreciation the continued practice of holding periodic informal briefings by the Secretary-General on his priorities, travels and most recent activities, including his participation in international meetings and events organized outside the United Nations, and encourages the continuation of this practice;

10. *Takes note* of the informal meeting on the ways and means of further enhancing the cooperation between the permanent missions and the Secretariat, held on 15 March 2016, as well as of the letter from the President of the General Assembly dated 23 March 2016 transmitting the summary of that meeting, as part of

[5] A/70/681.

the interaction between the permanent missions and the Secretariat, requests the Secretary-General to brief the Ad Hoc Working Group at the seventy-first session of the Assembly on the follow-up actions taken, and decides in this regard to establish an interactive and comprehensive dialogue between the permanent missions and the Secretariat within the framework of the Ad Hoc Working Group, aimed at improving the work of the Secretariat in its interaction with the permanent missions;

11. *Reaffirms* the importance and benefit of continuing interaction between the General Assembly and international or regional forums and organizations dealing with global matters of concern to the international community, as well as with civil society, where appropriate, and encourages the exploration of appropriate actions or measures, while fully respecting the intergovernmental nature of the Assembly, in conformity with its relevant rules of procedure;

12. *Recognizes* the value of holding interactive inclusive thematic debates on current issues of critical importance to the international community, and calls upon the President of the General Assembly to organize such debates in close consultation with the General Committee and the Member States, including with regard to the preliminary programme of such debates, in order to enable an adequate level of participation and an appropriate allocation of time for substantive interactive discussion during the debates so as to enable all interested delegations to state their positions and to facilitate, where appropriate, results-oriented and productive outcomes of such debates, and in this context welcomes the initiative of the President of the Assembly at the seventieth session to select "The United Nations at 70: a new commitment to action" as the theme of the general debate;

13. *Commends* improvements in the quality of the annual report of the Security Council to the General Assembly, including as presented in the note by the President of the Security Council,[6] and welcomes the willingness of the Council to continue to consider other suggestions concerning improvements to the annual report;

14. *Invites* the Secretariat, including the Department of Public Information, while carrying out its activities, as mandated by the General Assembly, to continue its efforts to raise the visibility of the Assembly and to enhance world public and media awareness of the contribution made by the Assembly to the fulfilment of the goals of the Organization, as set out in the Charter;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General, under relevant agenda items, to bring to the attention of the Member States constraints that have prevented the Secretary-General from implementing those provisions of General Assembly resolutions that are addressed to the Secretariat;

Working methods

16. *Reaffirms* existing relevant mandates related to the improvement of the working methods of the Main Committees, including section C of the annex to resolution 58/316 of 1 July 2004, paragraphs 7 to 13 of resolution 59/313 of 12 September 2005, cluster III of the annex to resolution 60/286 of 8 September 2006 and resolution 69/321, in particular paragraphs 16 and 17 thereof;

[6] S/2015/944.

17. *Requests* each Main Committee to further discuss its working methods at the beginning of every session, and in this regard invites the Chairs of the Main Committees to brief the Ad Hoc Working Group during the seventy-first session on any best practices and lessons learned with a view to improving working methods, as appropriate;

18. *Reiterates* its request to the Secretary-General to include, in his report to be submitted at the seventy-first session under the agenda item entitled "Pattern of conferences", information regarding the basis for the current practice whereby Member States bear the additional costs of using United Nations Headquarters conference services during business hours;

19. *Welcomes* the holding of elections for non-permanent members of the Security Council and members of the Economic and Social Council about six months before the elected members assume their responsibilities, welcomes the note by the President of the Security Council[7] inviting the elected Security Council members to observe some of its meetings and activities as from 1 October immediately preceding their term of membership, and also welcomes such efforts to afford elected members appropriate opportunities to prepare for their tenure at the Security Council;

20. *Emphasizes* that the General Assembly and its Main Committees, at the seventy-first session, in consultation with Member States, should continue their consideration of and make proposals for the further biennialization, triennialization, clustering and elimination of items on the agenda of the Assembly, including through the introduction of a sunset clause, with the clear consent of the sponsoring State or States, taking into account the relevant recommendations of the Ad Hoc Working Group;

21. *Recalls* its resolution 48/264 of 29 July 1994 by which it adopted Guidelines on the Rationalization of the Agenda of the General Assembly;

22. *Also recalls* the need to enhance synergies and coherence and reduce overlap where it is found to exist in the agendas of the General Assembly, especially of its Second and Third Committees, the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies, and the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the Council and the Assembly, as well as all other related forums, in accordance with relevant rules of procedure and in light of the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and calls for the continuation of such efforts during the seventy-first session of the General Assembly;

23. *Takes note* of the report on the strategic alignment of future sessions of the General Assembly with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development presented by the group created in a letter dated 16 March 2016 of the President of the General Assembly at its seventieth session;

24. *Recalls* rules 153 and 154 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, and encourages the Chairs of the Main Committees and the Secretary-General to ensure observance of these rules, within their respective mandates;

[7] S/2016/619.

25. *Stresses* the importance of enhancing the role of the General Committee to support the work of the General Assembly;

26. *Reiterates* its invitation to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the Chairs of the Main Committees, in consultation with the General Committee and Member States, to enhance the coordination of the scheduling of the meetings of the Assembly, including high-level meetings and high-level thematic debates, with a view to optimizing their interactivity and effectiveness, especially during the general debate, and distribution of such events throughout the session;

27. *Reaffirms*, in this regard, resolution 57/301 of 13 March 2003, by which the General Assembly, inter alia, decided that the general debate shall open on the Tuesday following the opening of the regular session of the Assembly and shall be held without interruption, and encourages the scheduling of future high-level meetings during the first half of the year, from within existing resources, taking into account the calendar of conferences and without prejudice to the current practice of convening one high-level meeting in September at the beginning of each session of the Assembly;

28. *Decides* that, with sufficient time before the opening of each regular or special session of the General Assembly, the Secretariat, in particular its protocol and security services, shall hold discussions with all Member States on all aspects related to the organization of the high-level segment of the general debate and any other activities that may have special organizational requirements;

29. *Also decides* that, with due consideration given to accessibility issues, in all plenary meetings of the General Assembly, including plenary meetings of high-level events, the seating arrangement of Member States shall follow alphabetical order in English, beginning with the name of the country selected by lot each year and avoiding distinctions between Member States as to the rank of the head of delegation;

30. *Recalls* the interim arrangement approved by the General Assembly in decision 68/505, recommending the pattern for the rotation of the Chairs of the Main Committees until the seventy-third session of the Assembly, reiterates its request that the Ad Hoc Working Group prepare long-term arrangements concerning the election of the Chairs and Rapporteurs of the Main Committees with the aim of establishing a predictable, transparent and fair mechanism, in consultation with regional groups, and that it submit them to the Assembly no later than at the seventy-second session, and in this regard reiterates its invitation to Member States to present proposals and to devote early attention to the matter of concluding a future arrangement, which would come into effect at the seventy-fourth session of the Assembly, with the annex to resolution 68/307 containing the guidelines on the election of the Chairs and Rapporteurs of the Main Committees to be considered in this context;

31. *Encourages* Member States to seek gender balance in the distribution of Chairs of the Main Committees;

32. *Also encourages* Member States to make, to the extent possible, full use of the e-services provided by the Secretariat, in order to save costs, reduce the environmental impact and improve the distribution of documents and in this regard

requests the Secretariat to further improve, harmonize and, where appropriate, unify such e-services;

33. *Reiterates* the need to fully implement and observe rule 55 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, which provides that during the sessions of the Assembly the Journal of the United Nations shall be published in the languages of the Assembly, expresses its concern about the lack of implementation of rule 55, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to provide during the seventy-first session of the Assembly innovative proposals on the possible changes to the format, production and editing of the Journal, by reallocating existing resources and economizing on the costs of its publishing;

Selection and appointment of the Secretary-General and other executive heads

34. *Commends* the Presidents of the seventieth session of the General Assembly and of the Security Council for December 2015 for having started the process of soliciting candidates for the position of Secretary-General by sending a joint letter to all Member States,[8] and also commends the circulation to all Member States on an ongoing basis of the names of individuals that have been submitted for consideration as candidates for the position, which have also been posted on the dedicated website of the President of the Assembly together with the vision statements of the candidates;[9]

35. *Also commends* the President of the seventieth session of the Assembly for his active contribution to the implementation of provisions guiding the selection and appointment of the Secretary-General, as contained in resolution 69/321 and in accordance with the role accorded to him by that resolution;

36. *Strongly welcomes* the implementation of paragraph 42 of resolution 69/321 through the organization of informal dialogues to which all candidates for the position of Secretary-General have been invited;

37. *Reiterates* that the process of selecting and appointing the Secretary-General differs from the process used with regard to the executive heads of the organizations of the United Nations system, given the roles of the Security Council and the General Assembly in accordance with Article 97 of the Charter, emphasizes in particular that the process of selection of the Secretary-General is guided by the principles of transparency and inclusiveness, building on the best practices and the participation of all Member States, and also emphasizes the need for continuing the full implementation of resolution 69/321;

38. *Notes* that the selection and appointment of the next Secretary-General is expected to take place in 2016, and as a result requests, without prejudice to the role of the principal organs as enshrined in Article 97 of the Charter, the President of the seventy-first session of the Assembly to actively support this process in accordance with the role accorded to him by relevant resolutions, including the present resolution;

[8] A/70/623-S/2015/988.

[9] A/70/672, A/70/687, A/70/688, A/70/731, A/70/732, A/70/752, A/70/768, A/70/813, A/70/827, A/70/906, A/70/908 and A/70/979.

39. *Reaffirms* paragraph 38 of resolution 69/321 and welcomes the presentation of a significant number of women for the position of the ninth Secretary-General, following its invitation to Member States to do so;

40. *Stresses* in particular the need to ensure the appointment of the best possible candidate for the post of Secretary-General, who embodies the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity and who demonstrates a firm commitment to the purposes and principles of the United Nations, proven leadership and managerial abilities, extensive experience in international relations and strong diplomatic, communication and multilingual skills;

41. *Reaffirms* its commitment to continue, in the Ad Hoc Working Group, in accordance with the provisions of Article 97 of the Charter, its thorough consideration of the issues under the third thematic cluster of the Working Group, on the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly, including the examination of innovative ways to improve the process of selecting and appointing the Secretary-General and other executive heads in all its aspects, and recalls all relevant resolutions, including resolutions 11(I), 46/77, 47/233, 48/264, 51/241, 52/163, 55/14, 55/285, 56/509, 57/300, 57/301, 58/126, 58/316, 59/313, 60/286, 61/292, 62/276, 63/309, 64/301, 65/315, 66/294, 67/297, 68/307 and 69/321, reaffirming the applicable procedures in the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, in particular rule 141, and acknowledging existing relevant Assembly practices;

42. *Calls on* the President of the General Assembly to monitor and review the implementation by the Assembly of these resolutions;

43. *Welcomes* the briefing provided by the Secretariat to the Ad Hoc Working Group on the gender balance and regional origin of the executive heads of the United Nations system and the Senior Management Group of the Organization, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to take all effective measures towards achieving equal and fair distribution based on gender and geographical balance, while securing the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity;

44. *Recalls* resolution 52/12 B, in particular paragraph 2, which notes that the Secretary-General will appoint the Deputy Secretary-General following consultations with Member States, and stresses that the process of appointments to senior posts by the Secretary-General within the Organization should be inclusive and transparent, in accordance with relevant rules of procedure and as set out in the Charter;

45. *Stresses* the need to ensure equal and fair distribution based on gender balance and as wide a geographical basis as possible, and in this regard recalls its resolutions 46/232 of 2 March 1992 and 51/241 of 31 July 1997, adopted without a vote, which contain the principles that the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity are the paramount considerations in the recruitment and performance of international civil servants and that, as a general rule, there should be no monopoly on senior posts in the United Nations system by nationals of any State or group of States;

Strengthening the accountability, transparency and institutional memory of the Office of the President of the General Assembly

46. *Commends* the President of the seventieth session of the General Assembly for strengthening the transparency and inclusivity of his office, including the increased and creative use of online facilities and for releasing detailed information on the finances, official travel, staffing and activities of his Office, and invites future Presidents of the General Assembly to follow these good practices;

47. *Notes with appreciation* the views expressed by the Office of the President of the General Assembly to the Ad Hoc Working Group on the strengthening of the accountability, transparency and institutional memory of the Office of the President of the Assembly and its relationship with the Secretariat and the measures already undertaken in this regard, while continuing to explore additional measures where feasible, and notes the support provided by the General Assembly and Economic and Social Council Affairs Division of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management of the Secretariat to the Office of the President of the Assembly;

48. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General's Task Force on the functioning of the Office of the President of the General Assembly;[10]

49. *Encourages* the Presidents of the General Assembly to continue with the practice of periodically briefing Member States on their activities, including official travel;

50. *Commends* the initiative of convening a retreat on the strengthening of the General Assembly, which brings together the incoming and outgoing presidencies of each session of the Assembly, and in this regard takes note of the summary of the proceedings of the retreat held on 16 June 2015;[11]

51. *Encourages* exchanges between the President-elect of the General Assembly and the Council of Presidents of the General Assembly so that Presidents-elect may benefit from the experiences of former Presidents in terms of best practices and lessons learned;

52. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly, assisted by the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, to develop a standardized format for the written handover summary of best practices and lessons learned, to be transmitted to his or her successor as part of the handover briefing at the end of every Presidency and made available to Member States;

53. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly to preserve the records and institutional memory during her or his term of office by using existing United Nations record keeping and archiving facilities, taking into account existing record keeping standards and practices of the Organization;

54. *Requests* the Secretary-General to utilize the existing United Nations record keeping and archiving facilities in order to archive the documents of the Office of the President of the General Assembly;

55. *Stresses* the need to promote and ensure gender balance throughout the United Nations system, and in this regard invites Member States to consider

[10] A/70/783, annex.
[11] A/70/666.

presenting women as candidates for the position of President of the General Assembly, and encourages Presidents-elect to continue to ensure respect for balanced gender and geographical representation in the Office of the President;

56. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Ad Hoc Working Group at the seventy-first session of the General Assembly on the sources of funding and staffing of the Office of the President of the Assembly, including on any technical, logistical, protocol-related or financial questions, and for more clarification on the budgetary basis for the provision of such support by the Secretariat;

57. *Decides* that the President-elect of the General Assembly shall take an oath of office of his or her own, as detailed in annex I to the present resolution, at the moment of handing over the gavel in the final plenary meeting of the preceding session, and decides that the text of the oath shall be annexed to the rules of procedure of the General Assembly;

58. *Also decides* that the President of the General Assembly shall observe a code of ethics, as detailed in annex II to the present resolution, and further decides that the text of the code of ethics for the President of the General Assembly shall be annexed to the rules of procedure of the General Assembly;

59. *Requests* the Ethics Office of the Secretariat and the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management to provide an induction briefing to all Presidents of the General Assembly and members of the Office of the President of the General Assembly prior to the assumption of their duties;

60. *Emphasizes* the need to ensure, from within agreed resources, that the Office of the President of the General Assembly is allocated dedicated Secretariat staff, with responsibility to, in an efficient and capable manner, coordinate the transition between Presidents, manage interactions between the President and the Secretary-General and preserve institutional memory, welcomes the provision by Member States of staff from their respective permanent missions to be seconded to the Office of the President of the General Assembly, and encourages the continuation of this existing good practice;

61. *Requests* the Secretary-General, and invites the heads of specialized agencies, funds and programmes, upon request by the President of the General Assembly, to consider seconding staff to work in the Office of the President on a more systematic basis;

62. *Decides* that Presidents of the General Assembly shall provide financial disclosures on assumption and completion of their duties, in line with the existing United Nations financial disclosure programme;

63. *Notes* that the activities of the President of the General Assembly have increased markedly in recent years, recalls provisions regarding support for the Office of the President of the Assembly in previous resolutions, and expresses continued interest in seeking ways to further support the Office, in accordance with existing procedures, in particular rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the Assembly, as well as to continue discussions within the Ad Hoc Working Group on further steps to strengthen the Office;

64. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit, in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019, proposals to review the budget allocation of the Office of the President of the General Assembly in accordance with

existing procedures and bearing in mind the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General's Task Force on the functioning of the Office of the President of the General Assembly, and in this connection looks forward to considering such proposals during the main part of its seventy-second session;

65. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to make non-staff programme budget resources available to Presidents of the General Assembly from the date of their election;

66. *Stresses* the importance of the contributions of Member States to the Trust Fund in support of the Office of the President of the General Assembly, and in this regard notes with appreciation the contributions that have been made to the Fund, and encourages Member States to continue to contribute to the Fund and to allow for unspent contributions from previous sessions to be made available for succeeding terms;

67. *Stresses* the need for all contributions to be vetted through the Ethics Office and for non-in-kind contributions to be channelled through the Trust Fund;

68. *Requests* Presidents of the General Assembly to publish information on the President's website on an ongoing basis on substantive activities, contributions to the Office of the President and details of official travel undertaken during his or her Presidency and to produce an end of term report on these matters;

69. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly, in cooperation with the Secretariat, to report on the implementation of all mandates accorded to him or her by the present resolution to the Ad Hoc Working Group at the seventy-first session of the Assembly.

Annex I
Oath of Office

I solemnly declare that I shall truthfully perform my duties and exercise the functions entrusted to me as President of the General Assembly of the United Nations in all loyalty, discretion and conscience, and that I shall discharge these functions and regulate my conduct with the interest of the United Nations only in view and in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the code of ethics for the President of the General Assembly, without seeking or accepting any instruction in regard to the performance of my duties from any Government or other source external to the Organization.

Annex II
Code of ethics for the President of the General Assembly

1. The President of the General Assembly in performing his or her duties and responsibilities as an elected official, fully in line with the Charter of the United Nations and the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, shall at all times from the date of election observe the highest standards of ethical conduct.

2. The President shall perform his or her duties and responsibilities in an impartial and equitable manner and in full honesty and good faith.

3. The President shall avoid any action that might result in or create the appearance of:

(a) The use of the office of the Presidency or resources attached thereto for private gain;

(b) Giving unwarranted preferential treatment to any State, organization or person;

(c) Impeding the work of the Organization, or taking a preferential, biased or prejudged approach;

(d) Affecting adversely the confidence of Member States in the integrity of the work of the Organization.

4. The President shall engage with Member States in a consultative and cooperative manner, while at the same time refraining from receiving or accepting instructions from any individual or governmental or non-governmental organization or group whatsoever.

5. The President shall avoid any situation involving a conflict between his or her own personal or private interest and the interests of the Presidency or the United Nations.

6. The President shall ensure the greatest possible transparency in the utilization of property, premises, services and resources made available for the discharge of the functions of the office and ensure that they are used only for the official business of the Presidency and not for other purposes.

7. The President shall ensure the greatest possible transparency in any external activities, and any commercial dealings, to protect against conflict of interest. Holding of any commercial office during his or her term in office is not compatible with the post of the President.

8. In the event that the President considers that a conflict of interest may arise, he or she shall recuse himself or herself from handling the matter and, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, appoint an Acting President in relation to that matter or meeting.

9. In the fulfilment of his or her mandate, the President is accountable to the General Assembly.

10. Any reference to the President in the present code shall also include members of his or her office while in the exercise of their functions as members of the Office of the President of the General Assembly.

11. Nothing in this code shall preclude the President or members of his or her Office from being seconded from their Government or from retaining the privileges, immunities and diplomatic status granted by a Member State.

Annex

Updated inventory chart of General Assembly resolutions on the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly, issued pursuant to resolution 69/321

Explanatory note by the Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly (seventieth session)

1. In accordance with paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 69/321, in which the Assembly decided that the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly should continue its review of the inventory of Assembly resolutions on revitalization annexed to the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group submitted to the Assembly at its sixty-ninth session (A/69/1007), and, as a result, continue to update the inventory to be attached to the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group at the seventieth session, the Co-Chairs, assisted by the Secretariat, have prepared the updated inventory chart for consideration by Member States.

2. The present inventory chart has been updated to reflect the progress achieved since the adoption of resolution 69/321.

3. The Co-Chairs, assisted by the Secretariat, obtained updated information, where possible, from relevant entities responsible for implementation.

4. The updated inventory chart retains the following two-part structure, which was also utilized in the report submitted at the sixty-ninth session:

(a) The first part contains unimplemented provisions, in order to focus on their follow-up;

(b) The second part contains implemented provisions, both those that required one-time action and those to be implemented on an ongoing basis, in order to keep track of previous achievements and provide the means to compare with and learn from past experience.

5. Thus, in practical terms, the updated inventory chart can continue to provide clear evidence of ongoing progress and signal opportunities for further progress.

6. The inventory chart does not have a definite character and may be amended at any time by Member States through the Ad Hoc Working Group. Furthermore, it is not intended to, and does not, have any legal effect. It should serve only as a tool to facilitate discussions on the follow-up to the implementation of the previous related resolutions.

Part I
Provisions requiring follow-up

Cluster I: role and authority of the General Assembly

No.	*Resolution*	*Text of provision*	*Implementing entity*	*Comments*
A. General provisions related to the role and authority of the General Assembly (See part II)				
B. Provisions related to the election of the President of the General Assembly and members of the General Committee (See also part II)				
1.	69/321, para. 29 *Also in*: 68/307, para. 22; and 67/297, para. 22	Ad Hoc Working Group to prepare long-term arrangements concerning the election of the Chairs and Rapporteurs of the Main Committees of the General Assembly with the aim of establishing a predictable, transparent and fair mechanism, in consultation with regional groups, and that it submit them to the Assembly no later than at the seventy-second session, and in this regard invites Member States to present proposals and begin at an early stage to devote attention to the matter of concluding a future arrangement, which would come into effect at the seventy-fourth session of the Assembly, with the annex to resolution 68/307 containing the guidelines on the election of the Chairs and Rapporteurs of the Main Committees to be considered in this context.	Ad Hoc Working Group, regional groups	To be implemented and submitted to the General Assembly no later than at the seventy-second session.

No.	Resolution	Text of provision	Implementing entity	Comments
C. Provisions related to the annual report of the Security Council (See also part II)				
2.	60/286, annex, para. 7 *Also in:* 59/313, para. 2 (d); and 58/126, annex, para. 2	Also invites the Security Council to submit periodically, in accordance with Articles 15 and 24 of the Charter, special subject-oriented reports to the General Assembly for its consideration on issues of current international concern.	Member States (Security Council)	Since the adoption of resolution 60/286 no special subject-oriented reports have been formally submitted to the General Assembly. The special subjects, however, are to some extent covered by the monthly assessments by the Presidents of the Security Council.
D. Provisions related to the annual report of the Economic and Social Council (See part II)				
E. Provisions related to the annual report of the International Court of Justice (See part II)				
F. Provisions related to public relations activities (See part II)				
G. Provisions related to General Assembly cooperation with civil society and others (See part II)				
H. Provisions related to the organization of work (See part II)				
I. Provisions related to interactive/thematic debates (See part II)				
J. Provisions related to the cooperation between the main organs (See part II)				
K. Provisions related to the implementation and follow-up of resolutions (See part II)				

Cluster II: working methods

No.	*Resolution*	*Text of the provision*	*Implementing entity*	*Comments*
A. General provisions related to the rules of procedure of the General Assembly (See also part II)				
3.	68/307, para. 24	Underlines the need to fully implement and observe rule 55 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, which provides that, during the sessions of the Assembly, the *Journal of the United Nations* shall be published in the languages of the Assembly, from within existing resources.	Secretariat, Department for General Assembly and Conference Management	This mandate has now been included in the latest resolution on multilingualism (resolution 69/324). In an oral statement at the time of the adoption of resolution 69/324, the Secretariat informed the General Assembly that the current interpretation and practice with respect to rule 55 is that the *Journal* is published in the six languages of the Assembly during the main parts of the General Assembly, from September to December, while during the remainder of the year the *Journal* is issued in English and French only. Accordingly, if the General Assembly decides to continue with the current practice reflected in paragraph 41 of resolution 69/324, adoption of the draft resolution would not require additional resources under the programme budget.
B. Provisions related to the organization of meetings: Plenary, General Committee, Main Committees (See part II)				
C. Provisions related to the general debate (See part II)				
D. Provisions related to the conduct of business: time limits on speeches (See part II)				
E. Provisions related to modern technologies (See part II)				
F. Provisions related to documentation: resolutions (See also part II)				
4.	60/286, annex, para. 23 *Also in*: 58/126, annex, sect. B, para. 5	Encourages Member States to submit draft resolutions in a more concise, focused and action-oriented form.	Member States	Provision to be implemented by the Member States, bearing in mind the sovereign right of Member States to submit proposals in the context of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

No.	Resolution	Text of the provision	Implementing entity	Comments
G. Provisions related to documentation: consolidation of reports (See part II)				
H. Provisions related to the preparation and issuance of reports (See part II)				
I. Provisions related to the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization (See part II)				
J. Provisions related to the agenda of the General Assembly (See part II)				
K. Provisions related to practices and working methods of the Main Committees of the General Assembly (See part II)				
L. Provisions related to the General Committee (See part II)				

Cluster III: selection and appointment of the Secretary-General and other executive heads

No.	*Resolution*	*Text of provision*	*Implementing entity*	*Comments*
A. General provisions related to the selection of the Secretary-General (See part II)				
B. Provisions related to the selection process (See part II)				
C. Provisions related to the appointment and duration of the term (See also part II)				
5.	51/241, annex, para. 58	The duration of the term or terms of appointment, including the option of a single term, shall be considered before the appointment of the next Secretary-General.	Member States	Member States decide on the duration of the term on a case-by-case basis, on the recommendation of the Security Council. The Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Working Group at the seventieth session convened on 29 February 2016 an informal brainstorming session inter alia on the possibility of modifying the term of office to a single, non-renewable term, and of recommending more than one candidate for consideration by the General Assembly.

Cluster IV: strengthening the institutional memory of the Office of the President of the General Assembly

No.	*Resolution*	*Text of provision*	*Implementing entity*	*Comments*
A. Provisions related to the financial, logistic and technical support for the President of the General Assembly (See also part II)				
6.	69/321, para. 54 *Also in*: 68/307, para. 38	Recalls its request to the Secretary-General to submit, in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017, proposals to review the budget allocation to the Office of the President of the General Assembly in accordance with existing procedures, and in this connection looks forward to considering such proposals during the main part of its seventieth session.	Secretary-General	The Secretary-General had put forward proposals for resources relating, inter alia, to the handover and overlap costs for staff of the incoming President of the General Assembly, who usually arrive earlier to start working in the interim office of the President-elect and therefore overlap with the staff of the outgoing President for several weeks (as reflected in document A/69/416, para. 13 (b) (i)) which, however, were not approved by the Assembly (see resolution 69/264). As a result, the latest proposed programme budget did not include any such proposals. By resolution 70/247 on questions relating to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017, the Assembly however once again requested the Secretary-General to review the budget allocation to the Office of the President of the General Assembly in accordance with existing procedures. The Secretary-General is currently reviewing the means by which the requirements of the Office of the President can best be met in accordance with the Assembly's request.
B. Provisions related to the competencies of the President of the General Assembly (See part II)				

Part II
Provisions that have been implemented or are being implemented on an ongoing basis

Cluster I: role and authority of the General Assembly

No.	*Resolution*	*Text of provision*	*Implementing entity*	*Comments*
A. General provisions related to the role and authority of the General Assembly				
7.	69/321, para. 6 *Also in*: 68/307, para. 6; 66/294, para. 4; 65/315, para. 4; 64/301, para. 4; 60/286, annex I, para. 1; and 59/313, para. 2 (b)	Reaffirms the role and authority of the General Assembly, including on questions relating to international peace and security, in accordance with Articles 10 to 14 and 35 of the Charter of the United Nations, where appropriate, using the procedures set forth in rules 7 to 10 of the rules of procedure of the Assembly, which enable swift and urgent action by the Assembly, bearing in mind that the Security Council has primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security in accordance with Article 24 of the Charter.	Member States	Ongoing provision. The General Assembly has a number of items on its agenda that fall under the heading "maintenance of international peace and security". Since the adoption of this provision, the tenth emergency special session held its 30th and 31st plenary meetings on 15 December 2006 and its 32nd and 33rd plenary meetings on 15 and 16 January 2009.
8.	69/321, para. 10	Reaffirms that the presence of permanent missions serves to assist in the realization of the purposes and principles of the United Nations, recognizes the importance of their role in contributing to the effectiveness and efficiency of the General Assembly, as well as the role of the Secretariat in accommodating the work of permanent missions, and in this regard invites the President of the General Assembly at its seventieth session to conduct an informal meeting on this subject to consider ways and	President of the General Assembly	On 15 March 2016, the President of the General Assembly convened an informal meeting to consider ways and means to further enhance the cooperation between permanent missions and the Secretariat, which included briefings from the Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly and Conference Management, the Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information, the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security and the Assistant Secretary-General for Central Support Services. A summary of the meeting was transmitted to the Secretary-General and all Member States.

No.	Resolution	Text of provision	Implementing entity	Comments
		means to further enhance the cooperation between permanent missions and the Secretariat and to transmit a summary of the meeting to the Secretary-General.		
B. Provisions related to the election of the President of the General Assembly and members of the General Committee				
		(See also part I)		
9.	69/321, para. 30	Encourages Members States to seek gender balance in the distribution of Chairs of the Main Committees and in the position of the President of the General Assembly.	Member States	Ongoing provision.
10.	68/307, para. 21	Decides to reiterate the interim arrangement adopted in General Assembly decision 68/505 of 1 October 2013 recommending the pattern for the rotation of the Chairs of the Main Committees for the forthcoming five sessions, namely from the sixty-ninth to seventy-third sessions, as well as the guidelines on the election of the Chairs and Rapporteurs of the Main Committees contained in the annex to the present resolution.	General Assembly, regional groups	Implemented on an ongoing basis. In its decision 68/505, taken at its 24th plenary meeting on 1 October 2013, the General Assembly, on the proposal of its President, decided to approve an interim arrangement concerning the rotation of the chairs of the Main Committees for the forthcoming five sessions of the Assembly. The elections for the Chairs of the Main Committees for the sixty-ninth session were conducted in accordance with this decision. Concerning the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee), the General Assembly furthermore adopted decision 69/524 of 5 December 2014 entitled "Rotation of the post of Rapporteur of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) for the seventieth to seventy-third sessions of the General Assembly".

No.	Resolution	Text of provision	Implementing entity	Comments
11.	58/126, annex, sect. B, para. 9	In accordance with paragraph 2 (a) and (c) of resolution 56/509, the General Assembly elects the President of the Assembly, the Vice-Presidents of the Assembly, and the Chairs of the Main Committees at least three months before the opening of the session in which they will serve. In order to foster better advance planning and preparation of the work of the Main Committees, the full bureaux of the Main Committees shall similarly be elected three months in advance of the next session.	Member States	Ongoing provision. Provision implemented as from the fifty-eighth session. This provision as well as rules 30 and 99 (a) apply to the election of the President of the General Assembly and the Vice-Presidents.
C. Provisions related to the annual report of the Security Council (See also part I)				
12.	69/321, para. 13 *Also in*: 68/307, para. 11; 67/297, para. 10; 66/294, para. 11; 65/315, para. 10; 64/301, para. 9; 60/286, annex, para. 4; and 58/126, annex, para. 3	Takes note of the letter dated 4 December 2014 from the President of the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session addressed to all Permanent Representatives and Permanent Observers expressing a variety of views of Member States on the content and quality of the annual report of the Security Council to the Assembly, and encourages continuing efforts to ensure the inclusion in the report of more substantive information on the work of the Council, as appropriate.	Security Council	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis. The report of the Security Council is being improved in a gradual manner. See the note by the President of the Security Council contained in document S/2015/944. Further to the measures contained in the notes by the President of the Security Council of 26 July 2010 (S/2010/507) and 5 June 2012 (S/2012/402), presidencies may consider organizing interactive informal exchanges of views with the wider membership prior to the adoption of the report. In the 1990s the report was changed to reflect changes in the working methods of the Security Council. Since 2000, further changes have been introduced; inter alia, the introductory part has been added. Since then, the Security Council has focused more on the introduction to the report. In 2006, information on special political missions was added to the report.

No.	*Resolution*	*Text of provision*	*Implementing entity*	*Comments*
13.	60/286, annex, para. 5 *Also in:* 58/126, annex, para. 4; and 51/241, annex, para. 12	In carrying out the assessment of the debate on the annual report of the Security Council called for in paragraph 12 of the annex to resolution 51/241, the President shall inform the General Assembly of his decision regarding the need for further consideration of the report of the Council, including in respect of the convening of informal consultations, on the need for, and content of, any action by the Assembly based on the debate, as well as on any matters to be brought to the attention of the Council.	President of the General Assembly	Implemented on an ongoing basis. The President of the General Assembly provides opening remarks and a closing assessment of the debate. At the sixty-ninth session the President of the General Assembly, subsequent to the debate, transmitted to Member States a list of proposals concerning the analytical nature, the presentation of the report and practices, expressed during the debate.
14.	60/286, annex, para. 6 *Also in:* 59/313, para. 2 (e)	Invites the Security Council to update the General Assembly on a regular basis on the steps it has taken or is contemplating with respect to improving its reporting to the Assembly.	Member States, Security Council	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis. Information on the steps taken by the Security Council is provided during the meetings with the President of the General Assembly as well as included in the monthly assessments by the Presidents of the Security Council.
15.	59/313, para. 2 (c) *Also in:* 59/313, para. 2 (f)	To consider the annual reports as well as special reports of the Security Council, in accordance with Article 15, paragraph 1, and Article 24, paragraph 3, of the Charter, through substantive and interactive debates.	General Assembly	See above.
16.	51/241, annex, para. 11	The agenda item entitled "Report of the Security Council" shall continue to be considered in plenary meetings of the General Assembly.	General Assembly	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis.

No.	*Resolution*	*Text of provision*	*Implementing entity*	*Comments*
17.	51/241, annex, para. 14	The monthly forecast of the programme of work of the Security Council shall be circulated for the information of members of the General Assembly.	Security Council	Implemented on an ongoing basis. Member States are provided with the monthly forecast of the programme of work of the Security Council in hard copies. The programme of work is also uploaded on the website of the Security Council.
18.	51/241, annex, para. 13	The agenda item shall not be closed but shall remain open to enable further discussion as necessary during the year, bearing in mind, inter alia, the submission of additional reports as and when necessary.	Member States (General Assembly)	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis. Since the sixty-second session, the agenda item has remained open at every session.
D. Provisions related to the annual report of the Economic and Social Council				
19.	60/286, annex, para. 8 *Also in*: 51/241, annex, para. 15	Invites the Economic and Social Council to continue to prepare its report to the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolution 50/227, striving to make it more concise and action-oriented by highlighting the critical areas requiring action by the Assembly and, as appropriate, by making specific recommendations for consideration by the Member States.	Member States (Economic and Social Council)	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis.
E. Provisions related to the annual report of the International Court of Justice				
20.	51/241, annex, para. 16	The report of the International Court of Justice shall continue to be considered in plenary meetings of the General Assembly. The Assembly shall continue to support the role of the International Court of Justice as the principal judicial organ of the Organization, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations. The Assembly shall	General Assembly	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis. Since the fifty-second session, the report has continued to be considered in plenary meetings of the General Assembly.

No.	Resolution	Text of provision	Implementing entity	Comments
		also continue to encourage the progressive development and codification of international law.		
F. Provisions related to public relations activities				
21.	69/321, para. 2 *Also in*: 68/307, para. 2; and 67/297, para. 16	Takes note with appreciation of the multilingual web page devoted to the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly, accessible directly from the United Nations website, which exists in all six official languages, and invites the Secretariat to continue updating regularly and equally that web page and its substantive content in a cost-effective manner.	Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, Department of Public Information	Implemented. The Department for General Assembly and Conference Management periodically provides updated content, in all six official languages, to the Department of Public Information for uploading to the United Nations website.
22.	69/321, para. 14 *Also in*: 68/307, para. 12	Invites the Secretariat, including the Department of Public Information, while carrying out its activities, as mandated by the General Assembly, to continue its efforts to raise the visibility of the Assembly and to enhance, in the light of the seventieth anniversary of the United Nations, world public and media awareness of the contribution made by the Assembly to the fulfilment of the goals of the Organization, as set out in the Charter.	Secretariat, Department of Public Information	The Department of Public Information provides extensive coverage of the work of the General Assembly, its Committees and all major subsidiary bodies through print, online, audio and video news media.
23.	67/297, para. 11 *Also in*: 66/294, para. 22; 65/315, para. 18; 64/301, para. 20; 63/309, para. 8; 60/286, annex, para. 14; and 58/126, annex, para. 8	Encourages the Secretariat, including the Department of Public Information, to continue its efforts to raise the visibility of the General Assembly and to enhance world public and media awareness of its work, and in this regard recalls paragraph 10 of its resolution 67/124 B of 18 December 2012, in which it noted the	Secretariat	Wire-agency style news stories put out by the United Nations News Centre in the six official languages are a key part of this coverage. The President of the General Assembly is regularly interviewed and featured on the United Nations News Centre and United Nations Radio. The Department of Public Information also provides comprehensive press releases, in English and French, of all meetings of the Assembly, its main committees and

No.	Resolution	Text of provision	Implementing entity	Comments
		efforts of the Department to continue to publicize the work and decisions of the General Assembly and requested the Department to continue to enhance its working relationship with the Office of the President of the General Assembly. Requests the Department of Public Information to continue to enhance its working relationship with the Office of the President of the General Assembly, and stresses the importance of further enhancing public and media awareness of the work and decisions of the Assembly, including through their timely issuance and distribution in all official languages.		its subsidiary bodies, which are also included in the daily media alert, and statements made by Member States are made available in print and online form to the press. The annual press kit on the incoming President of the General Assembly is produced in the six official languages as well as in a number of non-official languages. United Nations Radio, whose general debate coverage includes a series of interviews with visiting officials that are broadcast in different languages, also places links to the text of general debate speeches on its website. United Nations Television and Video provides gavel-to-gavel live feeds to broadcasters around the world of the meetings of the General Assembly, as well as related press conferences. This coverage is also made available on the United Nations webcast platform. In the sixty-seventh session, for the first time, as mandated by the General Assembly, the Department of Public Information provided live and on-demand webcast coverage of all Main Committee meetings. United Nations Photo also provided thorough coverage of the General Assembly during the reporting period, with photos available on the United Nations Photo website. Through social media platforms, the Department of Public Information further communicates information about the work and priorities of the Assembly. These include YouTube, Twitter, Facebook and Sina Weibo. The quarterly *UN Chronicle*, the annual *Yearbook of the United Nations* and *Basic Facts About the United Nations* also contain extensive

No.	Resolution	Text of provision	Implementing entity	Comments
				coverage of the structure and functions of the General Assembly. In addition, the new smartphone educational application "United Nations calendar of observances: making a difference" promotes awareness of and action on important issues before the General Assembly, as well as ways to become involved in related events and links to further information. Through its weekly Thursday briefing programme for the non-governmental community, the Department of Public Information also covers issues before the General Assembly. Its Creative Community Outreach Initiative has facilitated filming in the General Assembly Hall for television and film productions, and its annual five-week-long training programme for journalists from developing countries and countries with economies in transition exposes junior and mid-level journalists to the work of the United Nations during the general debate. The Department of Public Information's network of 62 United Nations Information Centres, Services and Offices also continues to carry out numerous public information activities to enhance awareness of the work of the General Assembly. The Centres widely disseminate press kits at each session of the Assembly, which are frequently translated into local languages and disseminated to media representatives, Government officials and civil society. The Department of Public Information further enhanced public and media awareness of the work and decisions of the General Assembly by disseminating messages from the Spokesperson of the President of the

No.	Resolution	Text of provision	Implementing entity	Comments
				General Assembly to field duty stations. United Nation Information Centres also provide media and communication support to the President of the General Assembly during official visits to the countries where they are located. The Department of Public Information regularly seconds a staff member at the Professional level to serve as the Spokesperson for the President of the General Assembly. In addition, the Committee on Information continues to consider ways and means to enhance the visibility of the work of the General Assembly, including through the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Working Group.
24.	66/294, para. 14 *Also in*: 60/286, annex, para. 15	Urges the Secretariat to continue its efforts to raise the visibility of the General Assembly, reaffirms paragraph 15 of resolution 60/286, and decides that the announcements about the work of the principal organs of the United Nations should appear in the *Journal of the United Nations* in the order stipulated in Article 7 of the Charter.	Secretariat	Implemented on an ongoing basis. Pursuant to resolutions 60/286 and 66/294 the items in the *Journal of the United Nations* have been rearranged including with announcements about the work of the principal organs of the United Nations appearing in the order stipulated in Article 7 of the Charter. In an effort to raise the visibility of the General Assembly, the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management periodically briefs the media on the programme of work of the General Assembly. See also Department of Public Information's activities above
25.	60/286, annex, para. 16	Encourages the Presidents of the General Assembly to increase their public visibility, including through enhanced contacts with representatives of the media and civil society, thus promoting the activities of the Assembly, and encourages the Secretary-General to	President of the General Assembly, Secretary-General	Ongoing provision. Since the sixtieth session, for example, the Presidents of the General Assembly, together with the Chairs of the Main Committees, have periodically briefed representatives of civil society on the programme of work of the Assembly at its current session (see also A/61/483, p. 20 and A/62/608, p. 15).

No.	*Resolution*	*Text of provision*	*Implementing entity*	*Comments*
		continue the practice of providing to the Office of the President of the Assembly a Spokesperson for the President of the Assembly and an assistant to the Spokesperson.		As indicated above, the Department of Public Information regularly seconds a staff member at the Professional level to serve as the Spokesperson for the President of the General Assembly, in addition to providing support to the President and his Office by a number of other means.
G. Provisions related to the General Assembly cooperation with civil society and others				
26.	69/321, para. 11 *Also in*: 68/307, para. 9; and 60/286, annex, para. 12	Also reaffirms the importance and benefit of continuing interaction between the General Assembly and international or regional forums and organizations dealing with global matters of concern to the international community, as well as with civil society, where appropriate, and encourages the exploration of appropriate actions or measures, while fully respecting the intergovernmental nature of the Assembly, in conformity with its relevant rules of procedure.	General Assembly	Ongoing provision. For example, informal interactive hearings with civil society take place within the framework of the preparations for high-level meetings of the General Assembly, in accordance with the respectively applicable modalities resolutions. The General Assembly also periodically hears briefings by the current chair of the Group of 20 on their recent activities. Since the sixtieth session the Presidents of the General Assembly, together with the Chairs of the Main Committees, have periodically briefed representatives of civil society on the programme of work of the Assembly at its current session (A/61/483, p. 20, and A/62/608, p. 15). Such interaction is also provided for through the interactive thematic debates convened by the President of the General Assembly at every session.
27.	60/286, annex, para. 13	Also encourages, where appropriate, continued cooperation between the General Assembly and national and regional parliaments, particularly through the Inter-Parliamentary Union.	General Assembly	Provision has been implemented on an ongoing basis. Numerous meetings have been held between the President of the General Assembly and visiting parliamentarians. The Inter-Parliamentary Union also participates as an observer in the General Assembly.

No.	*Resolution*	*Text of provision*	*Implementing entity*	*Comments*
H. Provisions related to the organization of work				
28.	55/285, annex, para. 19 *Also in*: 51/241, annex, para. 28	In order to implement fully paragraph 28 of the annex to resolution 51/241, the President of the General Assembly is encouraged to make greater use of facilitators, where appropriate.	President of the General Assembly	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis.
29.	51/241, annex, para. 27	The General Assembly is the highest political body with universal membership of the Organization. Consideration of agenda items directly in plenary meetings shall be reserved for urgent issues or issues of major political importance, bearing in mind paragraphs 1 and 2 of annex I to General Assembly resolution 48/264.	General Assembly	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis.
30.	51/241, annex, para. 28	The President of the General Assembly, with a view to ensuring that there is a systematic and transparent process for participation by delegations in discussions on action to be taken on items considered directly in plenary meetings, shall assess the debate in plenary meetings.	President of the General Assembly	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis. Usually, the President of the General Assembly provides his assessment of the debates in plenary meetings whenever items considered are of particular importance or special interest to Member States.
31.	51/241, annex, para. 29	The Secretariat shall ensure, in consultation with the President, that priority is accorded to the availability of a meeting room and services to facilitate these consultations.	Secretary-General	Provision is being implemented on an ongoing basis by the Secretariat.

No.	Resolution	Text of provision	Implementing entity	Comments
I. Provisions related to interactive/thematic debates				
32.	69/321, para. 12 *Also in*: 68/307, para. 10; 67/297, para. 7; 66/294, para. 7; 65/315, para. 6; 64/301, para. 5; 60/286, annex, para. 3; 59/313, para. 3 (a); 58/126, annex, sect. B, para. 3; 59/313, para. 12	Recognizes the value of holding interactive inclusive thematic debates on current issues of critical importance to the international community, and calls upon the President of the General Assembly to organize such debates in close consultation with the General Committee and the Member States, including with regard to the preliminary programme of such debates, in order to enable an adequate level of participation and an appropriate allocation of time for substantive interactive discussion during the debates so as to enable all interested delegations to state their positions and to facilitate, where appropriate, results-oriented and productive outcomes of such debates [...].	President of the General Assembly	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis. The Presidents of the General Assembly regularly make a preliminary announcement of their intention to convene interactive thematic debates, including in their acceptance speech when elected. Subsequently, they inform Member States by letter of the format and agenda of forthcoming thematic debates whose outcomes are posted on the website of the President of the Assembly. For a list of thematic debates convened during each session, please refer to the websites of the Presidents of the General Assembly.
J. Provisions related to the cooperation between the main organs				
33.	69/321, para. 8 *Also in*: 68/307, para. 8; 66/294, para. 10; 65/315, para. 9; 64/301, paras. 7 and 8; 60/286, annex, para. 2; 58/126, annex, para. 6; 55/285, annex, para. 21; and 51/241, annex, para. 43	Reaffirms that the relationship between the principal organs of the United Nations is mutually reinforcing and complementary, in accordance with and with full respect for their respective functions, authority, powers and competencies as enshrined in the Charter, and in this regard stresses the importance of further ensuring increased cooperation, coordination and the exchange of information among the Presidents of the principal organs and also with the Secretariat of the United Nations, in particular the Secretary-General.	President of the General Assembly	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis.

No.	*Resolution*	*Text of provision*	*Implementing entity*	*Comments*
34.	58/126, annex, para. 5	The President of the General Assembly should continue to be briefed regularly by the President of the Security Council on the work of the Council. The President of the Assembly may wish to inform Member States about the substantive issues raised during these meetings.	President of the Security Council, President of the General Assembly	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis. The President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council are meeting at monthly intervals.
K. Provisions related to the implementation and follow-up of resolutions				
35.	69/321, para. 4 *Also in*: 68/307, para. 4; 67/297, para. 3; 66/294, para. 3; 65/315, para. 3; and 64/301, para. 3	Decides that the Ad Hoc Working Group shall continue its review of the inventory of General Assembly resolutions on revitalization annexed to the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group submitted at the sixty-ninth session of the Assembly,[a] and, as a result, continue to update the inventory to be attached to the report at the seventieth session.	General Assembly (Ad Hoc Working Group)	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis. Pursuant to resolution 69/321, the Ad Hoc Working Group has before it an updated version of the inventory.
36.	69/321, para. 5 *Also in*: 68/307, para. 5; 67/297, para. 3; 66/294, para. 3; 65/315, para. 3; and 64/301, para. 3	Requests the Secretary-General to submit an update on the provisions of the Assembly resolutions on revitalization addressed to the Secretariat for implementation that have not been implemented, with an indication of the constraints and reasons behind any lack of implementation, for further consideration by the Ad Hoc Working Group at the seventieth session.	Secretary-General	Implemented. See document A/70/681.

[a] A/69/1007.

No.	Resolution	Text of provision	Implementing entity	Comments
37.	69/321, para. 15	Requests the Secretary-General, under relevant agenda items, to bring to the attention of Member States constraints that have prevented the Secretary-General from implementing those provisions of General Assembly resolutions that are addressed to the Secretariat.		Ongoing provision. The reports of the Secretary-General issued pursuant to intergovernmental mandates reflect on all aspects of their implementation.
38.	59/313, para. 1	Stresses the need to demonstrate political will to ensure the effective implementation of the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly.	Member States	Ongoing provision. Provision does not contain request for specific action.
39.	58/126, annex, para. 9	Member States and the Secretariat should consider initiatives that might be taken for better monitoring of the follow-up of resolutions of the General Assembly, such as the provision of timely inputs for reports of the Secretary-General and giving effect to proposals that would advance the follow-up of major United Nations conferences and summits.	Member States, Secretary-General	Communications from the Secretary-General have been sent to Member States on an ongoing basis to ask for pertinent information (A/61/483 and A/62/608).

Cluster II: working methods

No.	Resolution	Text of the provision	Implementing entity	Comments
A.	**General provisions related to the rules of procedure of the General Assembly (See also part I)**			
40.	60/286, annex, para. 24 *Also in:* 59/313, para. 14	Requests the Secretary-General to issue the rules of procedure of the General Assembly in a consolidated version in all official languages, in print and online.	Secretary-General	One-time action. The consolidated version of the rules of procedure is set out in document A/520/Rev.16 and Corr.1, both in print and online (A/62/608, p. 15).[b]
41.	60/286, annex, para. 24	Requests the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat to make precedents and past practice available in the public domain with respect to rules and practices of the intergovernmental bodies of the Organization.	Secretary-General, Office of Legal Affairs	Implemented.
B.	**Provisions related to the organization of meetings: Plenary, General Committee, Main Committees**			
42.	69/321, para. 27 *Also in:* 68/307, para. 18; 67/297, para. 18; 66/294, para. 20; and 65/315, para. 16	Reiterates its invitation to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the Chairs of the Main Committees, in consultation with the General Committee and Member States, to enhance the coordination of the meetings of the General Assembly, including high-level meetings and high-level thematic debates, with a view to optimizing their interactivity and effectiveness, especially during the general debate, and distribution of such events throughout the session.	Secretary-General, President of the General Assembly, Main Committee Chairs, Member States	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis. The Secretariat takes an active role in providing advice, as requested, in the consultations on modalities for high-level plenary meetings, high-level thematic debates and other events scheduled near the general debate, to ensure optimum scheduling and utilization. The Department for General Assembly and Conference Management also regularly briefs Member States on arrangements for the forthcoming general debate and other high-level meetings convened in its vicinity. Further, the Executive Office of the Secretary-General has adopted an internal mechanism to ensure the coordination of initiatives emanating from departments and offices of the Secretariat, agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations.

[b] A revised edition of the rules of procedure has been issued under the symbol A/520/Rev.17.

No.	Resolution	Text of the provision	Implementing entity	Comments
				The Department for General Assembly and Conference Management regularly briefs senior staff in other Departments on lessons learned and best practices regarding the organization and scheduling of high-level meetings.
43.	69/321, para. 21 *Also in:* 68/307, para. 17; 67/297, para. 17	Recalls its decision in resolution 68/307 to conduct the elections of the non-permanent members of the Security Council and the members of the Economic and Social Council about six months before the elected members assume their responsibilities, beginning at the seventieth session, welcomes the current practice of the Security Council of inviting its elected members to observe some of its meetings and activities prior to the assumption of their responsibilities, and welcomes such efforts to afford elected members appropriate opportunities to prepare for their tenure in the Security Council.	General Assembly	Implemented for the first time at the seventieth session (elections of members of the Economic and Social Council: 14 June 2016; elections of non-permanent members of the Security Council: 28 June 2016).
44.	69/321, para. 9 *Also in:* 66/294, para. 9; 65/315, para. 8	Welcomes with appreciation the continued practice of holding periodic informal briefings by the Secretary-General on his priorities, travels and most recent activities, including his participation in international meetings and events organized outside the United Nations, and encourages the continuation of this practice.	Secretary-General	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis. The Secretary-General periodically briefs Member States in informal plenary meetings of the General Assembly on his priorities, travels and most recent activities.

No.	*Resolution*	*Text of the provision*	*Implementing entity*	*Comments*
45.	69/321, para. 25	Recalls rules 153 and 154 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, and encourages the Chairs of the Main Committees and the Secretary-General to ensure observance of these rules, within their respective mandates.	Main Committee Chairs, Secretary-General	Ongoing provision.
46.	59/313, para. 11	Strongly urges all officers presiding over meetings of the General Assembly to start such meetings on time.	Secretary-General, Department for General Assembly and Conference Management	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis by the Secretariat. Periodically, the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management provides presiding officers with statistics on the financial impact of the implementation of this provision (A/61/483, p. 19, and A/62/608).
47.	58/316, annex, para. 1 (b)	With effect from the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly, the meetings of the plenary Assembly shall normally be held on Mondays and Thursdays.	Secretary-General, Department for General Assembly and Conference Management	Implemented on an ongoing basis, as far as possible.
48.	58/126, annex, sect. B, para. 2	The work of the Main Committees of the General Assembly might benefit if it is scheduled over two substantive periods during the session. ... With a view to enabling the Assembly to consider changes in this regard, with effect from the sixtieth session of the Assembly, the Secretary-General is requested to present, by 1 February 2004, various options for consideration by the General Committee, taking into account the requirements of the relevant intergovernmental bodies and the different locations of their meetings and the budget cycle.	Secretary-General	One-time action. In response to this request, the Secretariat circulated a note entitled "Options for the rescheduling of the Main Committees of the General Assembly" (A/58/CRP.3), which the Assembly considered at its fifty-eighth session (A/61/483, p. 12, and A/62/608, p. 7).

No.	Resolution	Text of the provision	Implementing entity	Comments
C. Provisions related to the general debate				
49.	69/321, para. 28 *Also in:* 68/307, para. 19; 57/301, para. 2; para. 3; 51/241, annex, paras. 19 and 20 (a)	Reaffirms resolution 57/301 of 13 March 2003, by which the General Assembly, inter alia, decided that the general debate shall open on the Tuesday following the opening of the regular session of the Assembly and shall be held without interruption, and encourages the scheduling of future high-level meetings during the first half of the year, from within existing resources, taking into account the calendar of conferences and without prejudice to the current practice of convening one high-level meeting in September at the beginning of each session of the Assembly.	Secretary-General, Department for General Assembly and Conference Management	High-level thematic debates and high-level debates organized by the President of the General Assembly are normally scheduled during the first half of the year.
50.	51/241, annex, para. 20 (b)-(e)	The preparation of the list of speakers for the general debate shall be based on the following principles: (b) Member States shall be invited to indicate three preferences for speaking times; (c) Member States wishing to organize or participate in group meetings during the general debate period shall be encouraged to coordinate their responses to the request for preferences and to indicate this transparently in their responses; (d) The Secretariat shall be requested to prepare a list of speakers based on existing traditions and expressions of preference to best accommodate Members' needs;	Secretary-General, Department for General Assembly and Conference Management	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis by the Secretariat. The preparation of the list is based on the expressions of preference, traditions and other criteria, e.g., written request by a Member State, level of the representation, previous speaker slot, gender balance, geographical diversity, etc.

No	*Resolution*	*Text of the provision*	*Implementing entity*	*Comments*
		(e) The list of speakers for each day shall be completed and no speakers will be rolled over to the next day, notwithstanding the implications for hours of work.		
D.	**Provisions related to the conduct of business: time limits on speeches**			
51.	59/313, para. 10	Decides that time limits on speeches in the plenary Assembly and in the Main Committees shall be applied in accordance with rules 72 and 114 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.	Member States, Secretary-General, President of the General Assembly	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis by the Secretariat, the President of the General Assembly and Member States, bearing in mind the sovereign right of each Member State to express its national position.
52.	59/313, para. 13	Invites Member States that are aligned with statements already made by the chair of a group of Member States, where possible, to focus additional interventions that they make in their national capacity on points that have not already been adequately addressed in the statements of the group in question, bearing in mind the sovereign right of each Member State to express its national position.	Member States	Provision to be implemented by the Member States bearing in mind the sovereign right of each Member State to express its national position.
53.	51/241, annex, para. 22	Outside the general debate there shall be a 15-minute time limit in plenary meetings and in the Main Committees.	Member States	Ongoing provision. Provision to be applied by Member States bearing in mind the sovereign right of each Member State to express its national position.
E.	**Provisions related to modern technologies**			
54.	69/321, para. 31 *Also in*: 68/307, para. 20; 67/297, paras. 20 and 21; 66/294, para. 15 and 23; and 64/301, para. 19	Encourages Member States to make, to the extent possible, full use of the e-services provided by the Secretariat, in order to save costs, reduce the environmental impact and improve the distribution of documents, and in this regard requests the Secretariat to	Member States	Ongoing provision. All important official communications are transmitted by e-mail and, where delivery is not successful, by fax. As regards United Nations parliamentary documents, these are electronically available through the e-subscription service of the Department for General Assembly and Conference

No.	Resolution	Text of the provision	Implementing entity	Comments
		further improve, harmonize and, where appropriate, unify such e-services.		Management, available from http://undocs.org. Using Really Simple Syndication (RSS) feeds, the latest edition of the *Journal of the United Nations* and parliamentary documents issued daily at Headquarters can be accessed readily on a computer or handheld smart device. Furthermore, the websites of the Main Committees and subsidiary bodies are regularly updated to facilitate rapid, easy access to pre-session, in-session and post-session documents of those bodies. In the Main Committees, delegations are also increasingly making use of the possibility of circulating their statements electronically through Main Committee websites, or Quickplaces, and reading out shorter remarks. In addition, some Main Committees are using those sites to post advance speakers lists and statements of programme budget implications, as well as national statements. At the request of Member States, a number of these sites have now been made operational year-round, rather than during the main part of the session only.
55.	69/321, para. 20	Requests the Secretary-General to include, in his report submitted at the seventy-first session of the General Assembly, under the agenda item entitled "Pattern of conferences", information regarding the basis for the current practice whereby Member States bear the additional costs of using United Nations Headquarters conference services during business hours.	Secretary-General	Implemented. See document A/71/116 (para. 19).

No.	Resolution	Text of the provision	Implementing entity	Comments
56.	66/294, para. 24 *Also in*: 65/315, para. 19; 64/301, para. 21; 63/309, para. 9; 60/286, annex, para. 28; 59/313, para. 15; and 55/285, annex, para. 24 (a)	Decides that the Ad Hoc Working Group shall remain apprised of options for more time-effective, efficient and secure balloting, reiterating the need to ascertain the credibility, reliability and confidentiality of the balloting process, and requests the Secretariat to submit an update in case of any new technological developments, on the understanding that the adoption of any new balloting system in the future will require a decision of the plenary of the General Assembly.	Secretariat, General Assembly (Ad Hoc Working Group)	The Ad Hoc Working Group receives periodic updates from the Secretariat in case of any new technological developments.
57.	63/309, para. 7	Calls upon Member States to respond to the annual review of the Meetings and Publishing Division of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management on the distribution of printed documents to Missions, bearing in mind the cost savings, as well as the reduced environmental impact, which may accrue from this exercise, in order to improve the quality and distribution of those documents.	Member States	Ongoing provision. Member States have been responding favourably to the annual review of the Meetings and Publishing Division, resulting in decreased requests for hard copies of parliamentary documents and an increase in the number of requests for e-subscription to digital copies of documents.
58.	55/285, annex, para. 24 (b) and (c)	Taking into account the general support in this regard, the Secretary-General is requested to submit proposals to the General Assembly for its consideration: (b) Wiring of the main conference rooms at Headquarters to provide members of delegations and	Secretary-General	Implemented. The Official Document System is now fully operational. Furthermore, the PaperSmart portal provides electronic access to texts of statements of and reports to Member States and the Secretariat, as well as parliamentary documents in all official languages.

No.	Resolution	Text of the provision	Implementing entity	Comments
		the Secretariat with access to the Official Document System and other databases of the Organization, as well as to the Internet, together with electronic access to texts of statements and reports and, in the case of reports, simultaneous access to texts in all official languages; (c) Other areas of the work of the Assembly in which the use of modern technology and information technology would contribute to enhancing efficiency in its working methods.		
59.	51/241, annex, para. 45	The Secretary-General is requested to pursue an information technology plan with a range of options to provide all permanent missions to the United Nations and the wider public with online access to documents and relevant United Nations information. Unless the General Assembly decides otherwise, hard copies of documents shall continue to be distributed to permanent missions in accordance with their needs. While welcoming the progress made by the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Informatics of the Economic and Social Council, further efforts in this direction could be pursued within a specified time frame to harmonize and improve United Nations information systems. All countries, in particular developing countries, shall be assisted in making full use of this potential access. Adequate	Secretary-General	Implemented. The Official Document System has been fully operational and accessible. In addition to electronic means, hard copies continue to be distributed to permanent missions as requested. Further, a range of options including online access (in and beyond conference rooms), print-on-demand hard copies, knowledge management and video training is being implemented through PaperSmart. The PaperSmart team is also undertaking further studies and assessments. Regarding the reference to the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Informatics of the Economic and Social Council, the last time the Council had before it a report on the matter was in 2011. At that time, the Council took note of said report, but no proposal was submitted to it for consideration. The last time the item was on the agenda was in 2012. No documentation and no proposal were submitted to the Economic and Social Council for consideration.

No.	Resolution	Text of the provision	Implementing entity	Comments
		provision should be made for training delegates. Facilities for such access by delegations within the United Nations premises shall also be expanded as much as possible. Availability of information in this manner should be ensured in all official languages of the United Nations.		
60.	51/241, annex, para. 46	The Secretary-General is encouraged to include information on the impact of technological improvements in his report on the implementation of mandates, by means of comparing outputs with objectives.	Secretary-General	See comments for provisions 58 and 59 above. In addition, recording and assessment of indicators and outputs is currently being undertaken by the PaperSmart team.
F.	**Provisions related to documentation: resolutions (See also part I)**			
61.	66/294, para. 21 *Also in*: 65/315, para. 17	Encourages Member States, United Nations bodies and the Secretariat to continue to consult on the consolidation of documentation in order to avoid duplication of work, to exercise the fullest possible discipline in striving for concise resolutions, reports and other documentation, inter alia, by referring to previous documents rather than repeating actual content, and to focus on key themes.	Member States, Secretariat	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis. This issue is frequently examined in a number of intergovernmental bodies.
G.	**Provisions related to documentation: consolidation of reports**			
62.	60/286, annex, para. 29 *Also in*: 59/313, para. 16; 58/316, annex, para. 6 (c); and 58/126, annex, sect. B, para. 7	Requests the Secretary-General to implement further the measures set out in paragraph 20 of resolution 57/300 on the consolidation of reports and in paragraph 6 of the annex to resolution 58/316 on documentation.	Secretary-General	In response to the provision formulated in resolution 57/300, the Secretariat has issued a note entitled "Control and limitation of documentation" (A/58/CRP.7). Since the adoption of this resolution, a number of reports, where appropriate, have been consolidated (A/61/483, p. 21, and A/62/608).

No.	Resolution	Text of the provision	Implementing entity	Comments
				The Main Committees regularly examine the issue of consolidation of documentation, particularly when considering their working methods in the context of the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly.
63.	59/313, para. 16 *Also in*: 58/316, annex, para. 6	In the light of its decision in section B, paragraph 7, of the annex to resolution 58/126 that the heavy volume of documentation that is submitted to the General Assembly for its consideration should be reduced, the Secretary-General is requested: (a) To update the note by the Secretariat, entitled "Control and limitation of documentation" (A/58/CRP.7) in the light of the provisions of the present resolution; (b) To submit the updated version of the note by the Secretariat for the consideration of the General Committee, meeting in open-ended consultations, so that it may make recommendations to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session.	Secretary-General	In response to the provision formulated in resolution 57/300, the Secretariat has issued a note entitled "Control and limitation of documentation" (A/58/CRP.7). The note has not been updated, lacking the endorsement of Member States.
64.	55/285, annex, para. 16	In preparing the annual memorandum concerning the implementation of the resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly, the secretariat of the Assembly, in consultation with the substantive departments of the Secretariat, should look for synergies and integration of reports.	Secretary-General	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis by the Secretariat. The annual memorandum concerning the implementation of the resolutions contains a paragraph on the need for possible integration of reports.

No.	*Resolution*	*Text of the provision*	*Implementing entity*	*Comments*
H. Provisions related to the preparation and issuance of reports				
65.	66/294, para. 21 *Also in*: 59/313, para. 18; and 49/221 B, para. 6 (c)	Calls upon Member States, United Nations bodies, and the Secretariat to observe existing submission deadlines so as to allow for the timely processing of documents to be examined by intergovernmental bodies.	Member States, Secretariat	Ongoing provision. In response to this request, the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management has entered into a compact with the Secretary-General which provides for zero tolerance of late submission of documents (A/61/483 and A/62/608).
66.	55/285, annex, para. 18	The Secretary-General is requested to make further suggestions as to how to speed up the preparation of reports and to rationalize the scheduling of meetings. The Secretary-General shall keep the President of the General Assembly and the General Committee informed on this issue on a regular basis throughout the sessions of the Assembly.	Secretary-General	The Secretary-General continues to make recommendations in his memorandums on organization of the General Assembly, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items (see the most recent one, A/BUR/70/1).
67.	59/313, para. 17	Encourages Member States, when seeking additional information, to request that they be provided with the information either orally or, if in writing, in the form of information sheets, annexes, tables and the like, and encourages the wider use of this practice.	Member States	Provision to be implemented by the Member States.
68.	55/285, annex, para. 17	Member States and entities of the United Nations system should make a serious effort to submit their replies and inputs to requests for information or views pursuant to resolutions of the General Assembly within the prescribed deadlines.	Member States	Provision to be implemented by the Member States.

No.	*Resolution*	*Text of the provision*	*Implementing entity*	*Comments*
I. Provisions related to the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization				
69.	55/285, annex, para. 14 *Also in:* 51/241, annex, para. 7	As regards implementation of paragraph 7 of the annex to resolution 51/241, the President of the General Assembly, after consideration by the Assembly of the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization, shall inform the Assembly of his assessment of the debate on the report in order for the Assembly to determine the need for further action.	President of the General Assembly	According to practice, the Secretary-General introduces his report at the beginning of the general debate. Consequently, the President of the General Assembly presents his assessment at the conclusion of the general debate. Any additional assessment by the President is provided after plenary meetings of the General Assembly.
70.	51/241, annex, para. 4	The introduction to the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization should be in the nature of an executive summary highlighting main issues.	Secretary-General	Provision implemented by the Secretariat. The introduction to the report on the work of the Organization is presented in the form of an executive summary highlighting the main issues.
71.	51/241, annex, para. 5 *Also in:* 55/285, annex, para. 13	The main body of the report shall be comprehensive, informative and analytical in a way that will allow Member States to examine and assess, inter alia, through the debate on the report, the extent to which mandates given by the General Assembly have been fulfilled, as well as to set priorities in the context of the major political, economic and social, administrative and financial issues on its agenda.	Secretary-General	Provision implemented by the Secretariat on an ongoing basis.
72.	51/241, annex, para. 6 *Also in:* 55/285, annex, para. 13	The Secretary-General shall incorporate a forward-looking section in his report on the work of the Organization. It shall describe the specific goals for the Secretariat in the year ahead in the context of the workplan for the Organization in the coming year, taking into account the	Secretary-General	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis by the Secretariat.

No.	*Resolution*	*Text of the provision*	*Implementing entity*	*Comments*
		medium-term plan and the fact that the responsibility for establishing priorities rests with the Member States.		
73.	51/241, annex, para. 9 *Also in*: 55/285, annex, para. 13	The report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization shall, inter alia, contain an analytical and concise annex elaborating the costs by major programmes and activities of all bodies of the United Nations system, located both in and outside New York, according to their mandates, so as to improve Member States' overview of system-wide issues.	Secretary-General	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis by the Secretariat.
74.	51/241, annex, para. 3	The report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization should be available not later than 30 days prior to the opening of the regular session of the General Assembly in all official languages of the Organization so as to permit due consideration.	Secretary-General	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis by the Secretariat. During the sixty-second session the report was not available within the deadline requested.
75.	51/241, annex, para. 7	The report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization shall be considered in plenary meetings of the General Assembly immediately after the general debate.	Secretary-General/ Member States (General Assembly)	Provision implemented by the Secretariat on an ongoing basis. The report is considered in plenary meetings of the General Assembly immediately after the general debate.
76.	51/241, annex, para. 10	The Secretary-General is requested to introduce the report orally at an appropriate time under the agenda item "Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization".	Secretary-General	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis by the Secretary-General. The Secretary-General introduces his report orally under the agenda item entitled "Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization".

No.	Resolution	Text of the provision	Implementing entity	Comments
J.	**Provisions related to the agenda of the General Assembly**			
77.	69/321, para. 22 *Also in*: 68/307, para. 16; 67/297, para. 15; 66/294, para. 18; 65/315, para. 14; 64/301, para. 18; and 63/309, para. 6	Emphasizes that the General Assembly and its Main Committees, at the seventieth session, in consultation with Member States, should continue their consideration of and make proposals for the further biennialization, triennialization, clustering and elimination of items on the agenda of the Assembly, including through the introduction of a sunset clause, with the clear consent of the sponsoring State or States, taking into account the relevant recommendations of the Ad Hoc Working Group.	Member States (General Assembly), Main Committees	Ongoing provision. At the seventieth session, the Second Committee undertook a process of informal consultations on the revitalization of the work of the Second Committee. Separately, the President of the seventieth session of the General Assembly appointed a group of facilitators to find agreement, in consultation with Member States, on strategically aligning the agenda of future sessions of the General Assembly with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals.
78.	58/316, annex, para. 2 (a) and (d)	(a) Pursuant to paragraph 4 of section B of the annex to resolution 58/126, the agenda of the General Assembly shall be organized under headings corresponding to the priorities of the Organization, as contained in the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 (or in the strategic framework, as appropriate), with an additional heading for "Organizational, administrative and other matters"; (d) The provisions of the present section shall be reviewed by the General Assembly at its sixty-first session with a view to making further improvements, as appropriate.	Secretary-General, Member States (General Assembly)	One-time action. As from the fifty-ninth session, the agenda of the General Assembly has been organized under headings corresponding to the priorities of the Organization, as contained in the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 and, subsequently, in accordance with the strategic framework for the period 2006-2007, with an additional heading I, entitled "Organizational, administrative and other matters" (A/61/483, p. 13, and A/62/608). During the sixty-first session no revision was made by the General Assembly.

No.	Resolution	Text of the provision	Implementing entity	Comments
79.	58/316, annex, para. 4	Provisions related to allocation of agenda items (for details see resolution 58/316, para. 4).	Member States, Secretary-General	One-time action. The provisions of this paragraph have been implemented as from the fifty-ninth session and reflected in the agenda of each session (A/62/608, and resolution 58/316, para. 4).
80.	55/285, annex, paras. 3-9	Provisions related to clustering of agenda items concerning cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations.	Member States/ Secretary-General	One-time action. Provision implemented as requested and reflected in the agenda of each session.
81.	55/285, annex, paras. 10 and 11	Provisions related to biennialization of agenda items (for details see resolution 55/285, paras. 10 and 11).	Member States, Secretary-General	One-time action. The provisions have been implemented as requested.
82.	55/285, annex, para. 12	The following item shall be considered by the Third Committee, starting at the fifty-sixth session: "Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly".	Member States, Secretary-General	One-time action. The provisions have been implemented as requested.
83.	58/126, annex, sect. B, para. 4	With a view to better conceptualization of the content of the agenda of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General is requested to submit to the Assembly, for its consideration by 1 March 2004, an illustrative agenda of the Assembly, based on all the agenda items of the fifty-eighth session, organized around the priorities of the Organization for the period 2002-2005. The General Committee shall hold open-ended discussions on the illustrative agenda before	Secretary-General, General Committee	One-time action. In response to this request, the Secretariat circulated a note entitled "Illustrative agenda of the General Assembly" (A/58/CRP.4), which the Assembly considered at its fifty-eighth session (A/61/483, p. 12). See also comments for provision 78 above.

No.	Resolution	Text of the provision	Implementing entity	Comments
		making recommendations on the matter to the Assembly for its decision by 1 July 2004.		
84.	58/126, annex, sect. B, para. 5	The President of the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session, in consultation with the Secretary-General, and following consultations with concerned Member States, is requested to make proposals for the further biennialization, triennialization, clustering and elimination of items of the customary agenda of the Assembly for the consideration of the General Committee by 1 April 2004. The General Committee shall hold open-ended discussions on the proposals before making recommendations on the matter to the Assembly for its decision by 1 July 2004.	President of the General Assembly	One-time action. Subsequent to the adoption of resolution 58/126, the Secretariat circulated a note entitled "Analysis of the agenda of the General Assembly" which was considered by the General Committee in open-ended informal consultations.
85.	55/285, annex, para. 2 *Also in*: 51/241, annex, para. 24	The rationalization and streamlining of the agenda of the General Assembly should continue in order to enable the Assembly to focus its work on priority issues. Any change or suggestion concerning the agenda is made with the understanding that Member States may at any time propose any issue or item for the attention and consideration of the Assembly.	Member States (General Assembly)	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis.
86.	51/241, annex, para. 23	Bearing in mind rule 81 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the requirements for reopening debate on an agenda item which the Assembly had decided was completed will continue to be as at present and should be made clear to	Member States (General Assembly), President of the General Assembly	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis. See also: rule 81.

No.	Resolution	Text of the provision	Implementing entity	Comments
		delegations through a statement from the President of the Assembly. A delegation wishing to reopen debate on an agenda item should send a written request to the President of the Assembly. The President will then undertake soundings to ascertain whether the request enjoys wide support. In the light of these soundings, the President shall announce in the *Journal of the United Nations* the date of the meeting of the Assembly to consider the question of reopening debate on the item, bearing in mind the requirements of rule 81.		
87.	51/241, annex, para. 25	As a general rule, agenda items that could be considered in the Main Committees shall be referred to the Main Committees rather than the General Assembly in plenary meetings.	General Assembly, Secretary-General	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis.
K. Provisions related to practices and working methods of the Main Committees of the General Assembly				
88.	69/321, para. 16 *Also in*: 68/307, para. 13; 60/286, annex, para. 25; and 59/313, para. 8	Appreciates the briefings by the Chairs of the Main Committees of the General Assembly to the Ad Hoc Working Group about the working methods of their respective Committees during the sixty-ninth session of the Assembly, and in this regard encourages the Main Committees: (a) To ensure adequate coordination in their work while avoiding overlap and duplication;	Main Committees	Main Committees periodically hold informal meetings on their working methods. Quickplace sites provide a tool for Main Committees to facilitate their work. In the past, some of the Main Committees explored ways and possibilities of enhancing their cooperation. For instance, during the sixtieth and sixty-first sessions there were joint meetings of the bureaux of the Second and Third Committees.

No.	Resolution	Text of the provision	Implementing entity	Comments
		(b) To hold elections for the bureaux of the Main Committees at least three months before the opening of each session, and preferably up to six months in advance of the session, and calls upon the regional groups to proceed with relevant nominations in a timely manner and in accordance with the interim arrangement set out in Assembly decision 68/505 of 1 October 2013;		
		(c) To benefit from their respective intranet and other online services to facilitate the smooth organization and timely conclusion of their work;		
		(d) To further enhance sharing of information on the work and activities of the Main Committees within each Main Committee;		
		(e) To further improve the management of the negotiation process for Assembly resolutions.		
89.	69/321, para. 19 *Also in*: 68/307, para. 14; 67/297, para. 13; 66/294, para. 19; and 65/315, para. 15	Requests each Main Committee to further discuss its working methods at the beginning of every session, and in this regard invites the Chairs of the Main Committees to brief the Ad Hoc Working Group at the seventieth session on any best practices and lessons learned with a view to improving working methods, as appropriate.	Main Committees, Main Committee Chairs	Implemented on an ongoing basis. Briefings were provided to the Ad Hoc Working Group by Main Committee Chairs from the sixty-fifth to the seventieth session.

No.	Resolution	Text of the provision	Implementing entity	Comments
90.	69/321, para. 17 *Also in*: 59/313, annex, para. 9	Calls upon outgoing Chairs of the Main Committees to brief incoming Chairs on best practices and lessons learned from previous sessions of the Main Committees and to provide their written observations and lessons learned to their immediate successors, and encourages the incoming Chairs and bureaux of the Main Committees to consult with Member States shortly after their election on how the work will be conducted during the upcoming session of their Committee.	Main Committees	Provision is implemented by the Main Committees on an ongoing basis. The observations and "lessons learned" are presented during the informal meetings between incoming and outgoing bureaux of the respective committees.
91.	58/316, annex, para. 3 (a) *Also in*: 59/313, para. 7; and 51/241, annex, para. 26	Main Committees shall give specific attention to the rationalization of their future agendas by the biennialization, triennialization, clustering and elimination of items, and make recommendations to the plenary Assembly for its decision by 1 April 2005.	Main Committees	In response to this request, the Main Committees at the fifty-ninth and sixtieth sessions made recommendations to the Assembly.
92.	58/316, annex, para. 3 (b) *Also in*: 51/241, annex, para. 30	Main Committees shall adopt a provisional programme of work at the end of the session for the next session to help them better to plan, prepare and organize and, in this context, review the related documentation requirements.	Main Committees	Implemented as from the fifty-ninth session (information on the programme of work of the Fifth Committee is usually not available owing to the time frame of the Committee's work) (A/61/483, p. 14, and A/62/608).
93.	58/316, annex, para. 3 (c)	The practice of interactive debates and panel discussions shall be utilized or expanded, as appropriate, by all Main Committees so as to enhance informal, in-depth discussions and to bring together experts from various fields without prejudicing the progress of the substantive	Main Committees	Provision is being implemented on an ongoing basis. The Committees make extensive use of interactive debates and panels; for example, panel meetings are of particular importance for the work of the Second Committee.

No.	Resolution	Text of the provision	Implementing entity	Comments
		work of the Main Committees.		
94.	58/316, annex, para. 3 (d) *Also in*: 51/241, annex, para. 53	The practice of "question time" shall be introduced, as appropriate, in all Main Committees to enable a dynamic and candid exchange with heads of departments and offices, representatives of the Secretary-General and special rapporteurs.	Main Committees	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis. As from the fifty-ninth session, Main Committees introduced the "question time", which has a significant importance for their work.
95.	58/316, annex, para. 3 (e)	The websites of the Main Committees shall be enhanced and thereafter regularly updated and their content maintained by the secretariats of the Main Committees.	Main Committees	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis. The websites of the Main Committees continue to be enhanced and regularly updated by the respective secretariats (A/61/483, p. 15, and A/62/608).
96.	58/316, annex, para. 3 (f)	The bureaux-elect of the Main Committees shall meet immediately after their election in order to discuss the organization and division of their work.	Main Committees	Ongoing provision. Provision implemented as from the fifty-eighth session.
97.	58/316, annex, para. 3 (g)	With a view to ensuring the continuity and the effective organization of their work, the incoming bureaux of the Main Committees shall, no later than two weeks after their election, meet with the outgoing bureaux in order to consult on and review issues relating to the efficient functioning of the Main Committees.	Main Committees	Implemented by most of the Main Committees as from the fifty-eighth session.
98.	58/316, annex, para. 3 (h) *Also in*: 51/241, annex, para. 30	Prior to the opening of each session, informal briefings of each Main Committee shall be convened to discuss the organization of work.	Main Committees	Implemented as from the fifty-ninth session.

No.	*Resolution*	*Text of the provision*	*Implementing entity*	*Comments*
99.	58/126, annex, sect. B, para. 8	The Main Committees of the General Assembly are bound by the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, although they have different practices and working methods. With a view to identifying best practices and working methods, and recognizing the ongoing efforts of the Main Committees to streamline their work, the Secretary-General, drawing on the experience of previous Chairs of the Main Committees, is requested to submit a historical and analytical note on the practices and working methods of the Main Committees for the consideration of the General Committee by 1 April 2004. The General Committee shall hold open-ended discussions on the note before making recommendations on the matter to the Assembly for its decision by 1 July 2004.	Secretary-General	In response to this request, the Secretariat circulated a note entitled "Historical and analytical note on the practices and working methods of the Main Committees" (A/58/CRP.5), which was considered by the General Committee in open-ended informal consultations (A/61/483, p. 13, and A/62/608).
100.	51/241, annex, para. 51	There shall be a more detailed and structured examination in the Main Committees of the relevant reports of the Board of Auditors, the Joint Inspection Unit and the Office of Internal Oversight Services in relation to the substantive work of these Committees.	Main Committees	The reports are examined in the Main Committees on an ad hoc basis, if necessary.
101.	51/241, annex, para. 31	The Main Committees shall meet in substantive session only after the end of the general debate.	Main Committees	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis.

No.	Resolution	Text of the provision	Implementing entity	Comments
102.	51/241, annex, para. 36	The First Committee and the Fourth Committee shall not meet simultaneously and may consider meeting in a sequential manner during the regular session of the General Assembly. This arrangement shall not apply if it affects their respective identities, programmes of work and effective consideration of their agendas.	Main Committees	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis. The secretaries of the First and Fourth Committees undertake consultation for the purpose of avoiding simultaneous meetings.
L.	**Provisions related to the General Committee**			
103.	60/286, annex, para. 27 *Also in:* 58/316, annex, para. 5 (b)	Reiterates its call for the effective implementation of rule 42 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.	General Committee	Since the adoption of resolution 58/316, the General Committee has met throughout the session of the General Assembly.
104.	51/241, annex, para. 33	The General Committee shall use its authority and competence, taking into account rule 43 of the rules of procedure, by allowing Member States that are not represented on the General Committee to participate in its discussions. The process of decision-making will continue to be as at present.	General Committee	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis.
105.	58/316, annex, para. 5 (a)	The work of the General Committee shall be carried out in accordance with section VI of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.	General Committee	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis.
106.	58/316, annex, para. 5 (b)	The General Committee shall continue to meet throughout the session and to play the leading role in advising the General Assembly on the efficient organization, coordination and management of its work.	General Committee	Since the adoption of resolution 58/316, the General Committee has met throughout the session of the General Assembly and played its leading role in advising the Assembly in the organization of its work.

No.	Resolution	Text of the provision	Implementing entity	Comments
107.	58/316, annex, para. 5 (c)	To ensure the effective implementation of rule 42 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the General Committee shall meet regularly throughout the session with the bureaux of the Main Committees to review the progress of the work of the Main Committees and to make recommendations for furthering such progress.	General Committee	Since the adoption of the provision, the General Committee has met throughout the sessions of the General Assembly to ensure the effective implementation of rule 42 of the rules of procedure. Main Committee Chairs regularly briefed the General Committee on the work of their Committees.
108.	58/316, annex, para. 5 (d)	In July of each year, the General Committee shall conduct a review of the proposed programme of work for the forthcoming session of the General Assembly, on the basis of a report to be submitted by the Secretary-General, and submit recommendations on the matter to the forthcoming Assembly. The report of the Secretary-General shall include information on the status of documentation to be issued during the forthcoming session.	General Committee	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis. In response to this request, the Secretary-General annually submits reports to the General Assembly, including the requested information on the status of documentation.
109.	58/316, annex, para. 5 (f)	On the basis of proposals from the President of the General Assembly, and in the light of the positive experience during the fifty-eighth session, the General Committee shall be encouraged, as appropriate, to continue to schedule informal briefings on topical issues.	General Committee	At the fifty-eighth and fifty-ninth sessions, the General Committee held a number of informal briefings on topical issues. Owing to the rising number of thematic debates, the practice of informal briefings in the General Committee has been limited to avoid duplication.
110.	58/316, annex, para. 5 (h)	The General Committee shall continue to consider ways and means to further improve its working methods to increase its efficiency and effectiveness in all aspects,	General Committee	The General Committee continues to consider ways and means of improving its working methods. No recommendation has been made in that regard since the adoption of this provision.

No.	Resolution	Text of the provision	Implementing entity	Comments
		and make recommendations on the matter to the General Assembly for its decision by 1 April 2005.		
111.	58/126, annex, sect. B, para. 1	The General Committee shall meet throughout the session and further improve its working methods to increase its efficiency and effectiveness. It will play the leading role in advising the General Assembly on the efficient organization, coordination and management of its work. In this connection, the Assembly will also consider proposals to reform the General Committee.	General Committee	The General Assembly, at its fifty-eighth session, adopted resolution 58/316, by which, inter alia, it decided on a number of measures with regard to the reform of the General Committee.
112.	55/285, annex, para. 20	In order to enhance the capacity of the General Committee to assist the President of the General Assembly in the conduct of the business of the Assembly and to improve continuity between its different sessions, at the outset of each session, each Vice-President of the Assembly shall designate a liaison person for the duration of the session. This designation may be made informally, without any amendment to rule 39 of the rules of procedure of the Assembly, by means of a letter to its President.	General Committee	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis.
113.	51/241, annex, para. 34	The General Committee may, each year, prior to the closure of the session, prepare suggestions based on its experience for the consideration of the incoming General Committee.	General Committee	Suggestions have been made on an ongoing basis during informal meetings between the incoming and outgoing General Committees.

No	*Resolution*	*Text of the provision*	*Implementing entity*	*Comments*
114.	51/241, annex, para. 35	The General Committee is requested to consider and recommend to the General Assembly methods and procedures for streamlining and rationalizing the Committee's work. The General Committee shall, in this context, in relation to each agenda item proposed, consider its rejection or its inclusion in the provisional agenda, taking into account previous recommendations of the General Committee and previous relevant decisions of the Assembly.	General Committee	Provisions to be implemented by the General Committee.

Cluster III: selection and appointment of the Secretary-General and other executive heads

No.	Resolution	Text of provision	Implementing entity	Comments
A. General provision related to the selection of the Secretary-General				
115.	69/321, para. 34 *Also in:* 68/307, para. 26; 60/286, annex, para. 17; 51/241, annex, para. 57	Reiterates that the process of selecting and appointing the Secretary-General differs from the process used with regard to other executive heads in the organizations of the United Nations system, given the roles of the Security Council and the General Assembly in accordance with Article 97 of the Charter, and emphasizes in particular that the process of selection of the Secretary-General shall be guided by the principles of transparency and inclusiveness, building on best practices and the participation of all Member States.		Ongoing provision.
116.	69/307, para. 39 *Also in:* 60/286, annex, para. 22	Stresses, in particular, the need to ensure the appointment of the best possible candidate for the position of Secretary-General, who embodies the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity and demonstrates a firm commitment to the purposes and principles of the United Nations, and invites Member States to present candidates with proven leadership and managerial abilities, extensive experience in international relations and strong diplomatic, communication and multilingual skills.		Ongoing provision.

No.	Resolution	Text of provision	Implementing entity	Comments
B. Provisions related to the selection process				
117.	69/321, para. 32 (see also para. 44) *Also in:* 68/307, para. 25; 67/297, para. 23; 66/294, para. 25; 65/315, para. 20; and 64/301, para. 14	Reaffirms its commitment to continue, in the Ad Hoc Working Group, in accordance with the provisions of Article 97 of the Charter, its consideration of the revitalization of the role of the General Assembly in the selection and appointment of the Secretary-General, and recalls all relevant resolutions, including resolutions 11 (I) of 24 January 1946, 46/77 of 12 December 1991, 47/233 of 17 August 1993, 48/264, 51/241 of 31 July 1997, 52/163 of 15 December 1997, 55/14 of 3 November 2000, 55/285 of 7 September 2001, 56/509 of 8 July 2002, 57/300 of 20 December 2002, 57/301, 58/126 of 19 December 2003, 58/316, 59/313, 60/286, 61/292 of 2 August 2007, 62/276 of 15 September 2008, 63/309 of 14 September 2009, 64/301 of 13 September 2010, 65/315 of 12 September 2011, 66/294 of 17 September 2012, 67/297 of 29 August 2013 and 68/307, reaffirming the applicable procedures set out in the rules of procedure of the Assembly, in particular rule 141, and acknowledging relevant existing Assembly practices.	Ad Hoc Working Group, Member States	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis. The Ad Hoc Working Group has devoted a thematic meeting in each of its recent sessions to this issue. At the seventieth session, the Co-Chairs have also convened a dedicated informal brainstorming session, inter alia, on the possibility of modifying the term of office to a single, non-renewable term, and of recommending more than one candidate for consideration by the General Assembly.

No.	Resolution	Text of provision	Implementing entity	Comments
118.	69/321, para. 33	Calls upon the President of the General Assembly to monitor and review the Assembly's implementation of the above-mentioned resolutions.	President of the General Assembly	Ongoing provision.
119.	69/321, para. 35 *Also in:* 60/286, annex, para. 19; 51/241, annex, para. 60	Requests the Presidents of the General Assembly and the Security Council to start the process of soliciting candidates for the position of Secretary-General through a joint letter addressed to all Member States, containing a description of the entire process and inviting candidates to be presented in a timely manner.	President of the General Assembly, President of the Security Council	A joint letter by the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council dated 15 December 2015 was sent to all Member States (see document A/70/623-S/2015/988).
120.	69/321, para. 36	Also requests the Presidents of the General Assembly and the Security Council to jointly circulate to all Member States on an ongoing basis the names of individuals that have been submitted for consideration as candidates for the position of Secretary-General together with accompanying documents, including curricula vitae.	President of the General Assembly, President of the Security Council	Ongoing implementation. The President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council, have jointly circulated, on an ongoing basis, the names of individuals that have been submitted for consideration as candidates during the seventieth session.
121.	69/321, para. 37	Notes that the selection and appointment of the next Secretary-General is expected to take place in 2016, and as a result requests, without prejudice to the role of the principal organs as enshrined in Article 97 of the Charter, the Presidents of the General Assembly, in particular those at the seventieth and seventy-first sessions of the Assembly, to actively support this process in accordance with the role accorded to	Presidents of the seventieth and seventy-first sessions of the General Assembly	Ongoing provision.

No.	Resolution	Text of provision	Implementing entity	Comments
		them by relevant resolutions, including the present resolution.		
122.	69/321, para. 38 *Also in*: 68/307, para. 28; 66/294, para. 26; 60/286, annex, para. 18; and 51/241, annex, paras. 56 and 59	Stresses the need to ensure equal and fair distribution based on gender and geographical balance, while meeting the highest possible requirements, on the appointment of executive heads of the Organization, including the Secretary-General, and in this regard invites Member States to consider presenting women as candidates for the position of Secretary-General.	Member States (General Assembly, Security Council)	Ongoing provision.
123.	69/321, para. 42 *See also*: 60/286, annex, para. 20	Decides, without prejudice to the role of the principal organs as enshrined in Article 97 of the Charter, to conduct informal dialogues or meetings with candidates for the position of Secretary-General, without any prejudice to any candidate who does not participate, thus contributing to the transparency and inclusivity of the process.	General Assembly, President of the General Assembly	The President of the seventieth session of the General Assembly has organized informal dialogues with all candidates submitted for consideration as the next Secretary-General.
C.	**Provisions related to the appointment and duration of the term (See also part I)**			
124.	60/286, annex, para. 21 *Also in*: 51/241, annex, para. 61	Recalls paragraph 61 of its resolution 51/241, in which it is stated that, in order to ensure a smooth and efficient transition, the Secretary-General should be appointed as early as possible, preferably no later than one month before the date on which the term of the incumbent expires.	General Assembly, Security Council	The provision is being implemented to the extent possible.

No.	*Resolution*	*Text of provision*	*Implementing entity*	*Comments*
D.	**Miscellaneous/other**			
125.	69/321, para. 40	Requests the Secretary-General to brief the Ad Hoc Working Group in a streamlined and comprehensive way on the gender balance and regional origin of the executive heads and the Senior Management Group of the Organization.	Secretary-General	At its third meeting, on 22 March 2016, the Ad Hoc Working Group was briefed by the Acting Director of the Strategic Planning and Staffing Division of the Office of Human Resources Management, Department of Management, on the gender balance and regional origin of executive heads and the Senior Management Group of the United Nations.
126.	69/321, para. 43	Recalls its resolution 52/12 B of 19 December 1997, in particular paragraph 2 thereof, in which it noted that the Secretary-General will appoint the Deputy Secretary-General following consultations with Member States, and stresses that the process of appointment of executive heads of the Organization should be in accordance with relevant rules of procedure and as set out in the Charter.	Secretary-General	Ongoing provision.

Cluster IV: strengthening the institutional memory of the Office of the President of the General Assembly

No.	*Resolution*	*Text of provision*	*Implementing entity*	*Comments*
A. Provisions related to the competencies of the President of the General Assembly				
127.	69/321, para. 46 *Also in*: 68/307, para. 31; 67/297, para. 27; 66/294, para. 29; 65/315, para. 24; 64/301, para. 13; and 63/309, para. 4	Encourages the Presidents of the General Assembly to continue with the practice of periodically briefing Member States on their activities, including official travel.	President of the General Assembly	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis.
128.	69/321, para. 48 *Also in*: 68/307, para. 33	Encourages exchanges between the President-elect of the General Assembly and the Council of Presidents so that Presidents-elect may benefit from the experiences of former Presidents in terms of best practices and lessons learned, as part of strengthening the institutional memory of the Office of the President of the Assembly.	President of the General Assembly	Provision to be implemented on an ongoing basis.
129.	69/301, para. 49 *Also in*: 67/297, para. 32; 66/294, para. 36; 65/315, para. 28; 64/301, para. 17; and 60/286, annex, para. 9	Requests the outgoing Presidents of the General Assembly to transmit to their successors a summary of their work during their terms of office and to brief them on the lessons learned and best practices, and encourages the holding of a structured and constructive exchange of experiences between them in the three-month transition period.		Provision implemented on an ongoing basis.

No	*Resolution*	*Text of provision*	*Implementing entity*	*Comments*
130.	69/321, para. 56 *Also in*: 68/307, para. 40; 67/297, para. 29	Requests the President of the General Assembly, in cooperation with the Secretariat, to report to the Ad Hoc Working Group at the seventieth session of the Assembly on the role, mandate and activities of the President.	President of the General Assembly, Department for General Assembly and Conference Management	At its fifth meeting, on 7 April 2016, the Ad Hoc Working Group received relevant briefings by the President of the General Assembly, his Chef de Cabinet, the Chef de Cabinet of the Executive Office of the Secretary-General and the Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly and Conference Management.
131.	58/126, annex, para. 7	In June of each year, the President-elect of the General Assembly, after taking into account the views provided by Member States and following consultations with the incumbent President and the Secretary-General, will suggest an issue, or issues, of global concern upon which Member States will be invited to comment during the general debate at the forthcoming session of the Assembly. The views provided by Member States should also be summarized and circulated to Member States. Such suggestions regarding the issue(s) for comment will be without prejudice to the sovereign right of Member States to solely and entirely determine the content of their general debate statements.	President of the General Assembly	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis. The President-elect of the seventy-first session proposed the following theme: "The Sustainable Development Goals: a universal push to transform our world".

No	*Resolution*	*Text of provision*	*Implementing entity*	*Comments*
B.	**Provisions related to the financial, logistic and technical support for the President of the General Assembly (See also part I)**			
132.	69/321, para. 55 *Also in*: 68/307, para. 39; 67/297, para. 28; 66/294, para. 33; and 64/301, para. 12	Stresses the importance of the contributions of Member States to the Trust Fund in support of the Office of the President of the General Assembly, and in this regard notes with appreciation contributions that have been made to the Fund and encourages Member States to continue to contribute to the Fund.	Member States	Since the adoption of resolution 66/294, a number of contributions have been made to the Trust Fund in support of the Office of the President of the General Assembly. Further, each incoming President of the Assembly is briefed about the Fund and its modalities. The President of the seventieth session has published information concerning contributions made to the Trust Fund on his website.
133.	69/321, para. 50 *Also in*: 68/307, para. 34	Encourages Presidents-elect to continue to ensure respect for balanced gender and geographical representation in the Office of the President of the General Assembly.		Provision to be implemented on an ongoing basis.
134.	69/321, para. 51 *Also in*: 68/307, para. 35; 67/297, para. 30; 66/294, para. 34; and 65/315, para. 26	Requests the Secretary-General to report to the Ad Hoc Working Group at the seventieth session of the General Assembly on sources of the funding and staffing of the Office of the President of the General Assembly, including on any technical, logistical, protocol-related or financial questions, and for more clarification on the budgetary basis for the provision of such support by the Secretariat.	Secretary-General	Implemented. Furthermore, the Under Secretary-General of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management and the Controller of the United Nations, on 11 December 2015, briefed Member States on the budgetary basis for the provision of support to the Office of the President of the General Assembly by the Secretariat at an informal meeting convened by the Co-Chairs during the seventieth session.
135.	66/294, para. 35 *Also in*: 65/315, para. 27; 64/301, para. 11; and 59/313, para. 3 (d)	Requests the Secretary-General to further endeavour to ensure, within agreed resources, that the President of the General Assembly is provided with proper protocol and security services and adequate office space, with a view to enabling the President of the Assembly to carry out his or her functions	Secretary-General	The Department of Safety and Security continues to provide close protection coverage for the President of the General Assembly from within existing resources, and the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management continues to provide protocol services to the Office of the President of the General Assembly. In addition, new office space has been made

No.	Resolution	Text of provision	Implementing entity	Comments
		in a manner commensurate with the dignity and stature of the Office.		available to the Office in the renovated conference building.
136.	69/321, para. 52 *Also in*: 68/307, para. 36; 67/297, paras. 31 and 32; 66/294, para. 36; 65/315, para. 28; 63/309, para. 5; and 60/286, annex, para. 9	Emphasizes the need to ensure, from within agreed resources, that the Office of the President of the General Assembly is allocated dedicated Secretariat staff, with responsibility for coordinating, in an efficient and capable manner, the transition between Presidents, managing interactions between the President of the Assembly and the Secretary-General and preserving institutional memory, and also emphasizes the desirability for staff in the Office of the President of the General Assembly to be seconded from among Member States in a timely manner.	Secretariat, Department for General Assembly and Conference Management	Provision implemented on an ongoing basis. The Department for General Assembly and Conference Management provides technical, procedural and substantive support to the Office of the President of the General Assembly throughout the year and briefs Presidents-elect and their teams on the work of the forthcoming session. The Department for General Assembly and Conference Management is also the focal point for the institutional memory of the work and practices of the General Assembly within the Secretariat.
137.	59/313, para. 3 (b)	Decides to strengthen the role and leadership of the President of the General Assembly by: (b) Augmenting the resources available to the Office of the President of the General Assembly from within existing resources, subject to consideration by the Assembly of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007, to provide for two further additional posts at management and senior levels to be filled on an annual basis following consultations with the incoming President, beginning at the sixtieth session of the Assembly.	Secretary-General	Provision implemented as from the sixtieth session (A/61/483, p. 18).

No.	*Resolution*	*Text of provision*	*Implementing entity*	*Comments*
138.	58/126, annex, para. 10	The resources available to the Office of the President of the General Assembly in personnel and other support shall be augmented from within existing resources, bearing in mind the provisions of paragraph 22 of the annex to resolution 55/285. Five additional posts shall be made available to supplement current support, of which three shall be filled on an annual basis, following consultations with the incoming President, beginning at the fifty-ninth session of the Assembly.	Secretary-General	Provision implemented as from the fifty-ninth session (A/61/483, p. 11, and A/62/608).
139.	55/285, annex, para. 22 *Also in*: 51/241, annex, para. 44	Additional measures are required to implement paragraph 44 of the annex to resolution 51/241, in particular in the area of substantive support for the President of the General Assembly. Therefore, adequate support should be made available to the Office of the President in the substantive areas of its work. To this end, the Secretary-General is requested to take appropriate measures and to submit proposals to the relevant committees for their consideration during the fifty-sixth session of the Assembly.	Secretary-General	Implemented on an ongoing basis. See also other relevant provisions.
140.	59/313, para. 3 (c)	Decides to strengthen the role and leadership of the President of the General Assembly by: (c) Making available to the President of the General Assembly adequate office and conference space with a view	Secretary-General	As of the sixty-eighth session, new office space has been made available to the Office of the President of the General Assembly in the renovated conference building.

No.	Resolution	Text of provision	Implementing entity	Comments
		to enabling the President to carry out his/her functions in a manner commensurate with the dignity and stature of the Office.		
141.	60/286, annex, para. 11 *Also in:* 58/126, annex, para. 11	Requests the Secretary-General to continue to make the necessary arrangements for the provision of transitional office accommodation and other support to the President-elect of the General Assembly, in accordance with resolution 58/126.	Secretary-General	Beginning with the fifty-ninth session, transitional office space and other support have been provided to the Presidents-elect (A/61/483, p. 11, and A/62/608, p. 6).